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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk July 3, 2016
Mid edition No 719

POLITICS

Turning on Corbyn...

Is his local support finally on the wane as party faces its biggest crisis?

EUROPE

Special report on Brexit impact

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WAR

The Somme: 100 years on

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Why Labour support is confusing the big issue

IT WOULD be too easy to think that Kent is an area in which the Labour Party has little or no interest.

After all, we're a true blue county – Conservatives rule in Westminster and in most of our town halls. Labour, once the traditional second place party, now scrabbles around in third after Ukip.

But if history has taught us one thing, it is that should Labour want to be a realistic contender for the nation's ultimate ruling power, it needs to make in-roads into the county. It has to at least splatter a little red around the edges of the map.

To do that, it has to have a plan to appeal not only to its traditional supporters, but also those floaters who have elevated the Tories to such dominance in recent elections. And the main way to achieve that is with a leader whose charisma – in whatever form that comes in – reaches out and ushers them in.

Jeremy Corbyn is, without doubt, one of the most principled politicians. He is authentic in his beliefs.

Yet the Labour Party needs to be very clear on why there is such a call for him to stand down by so many. Because whatever your view on him, the question which must over-ride all others is 'could he ever win the general election?'. Do you want to be permanently sniping from the sidelines or able to actually do something, to make a change?

If the answer is even slightly in doubt, then he is surely not the man to lead a realistic opposition when British politics is in desperate need of every decision at this critical time being examined and challenged in such detail.

Best government is one with the strongest opposition. And the closest to electoral success.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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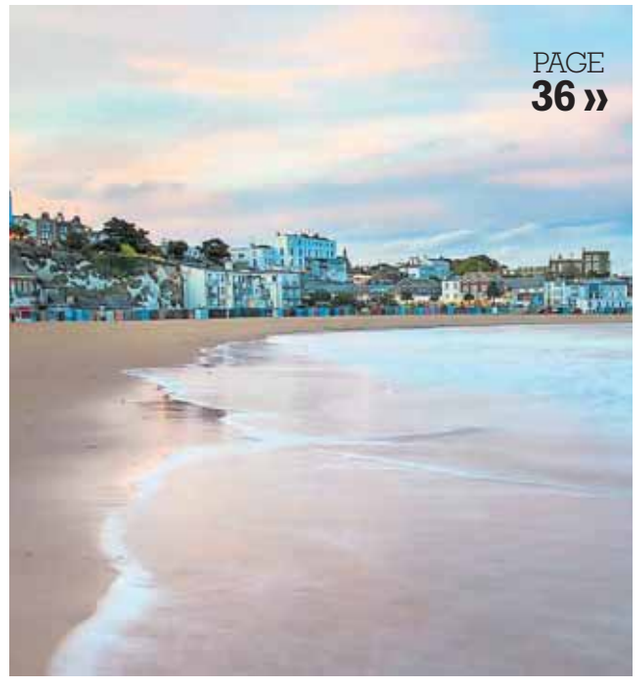

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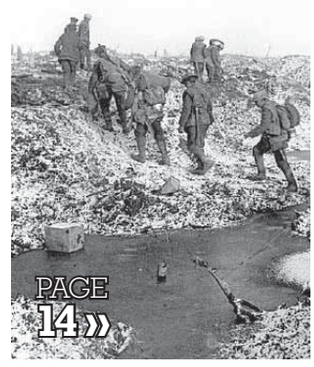

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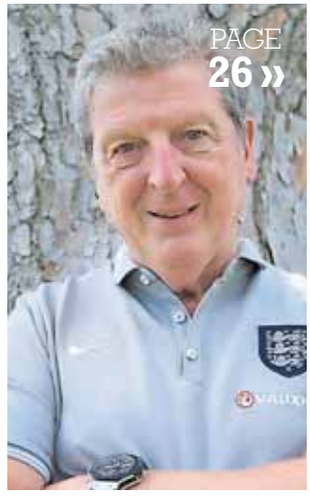

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Is Brexit vote triggering rise in racist incidents?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CONCERN: MPs are united in calling for a zero-tolerance approach to any form of xenophobia or racism

KENT Police says it is "monitoring the situation closely" following an apparent rise in racial tension across the county following the Brexit vote.

A small-minded minority appear to be emboldened by the decision to split away from the European Union to spout vile abuse.

It was raised by Faversham and Mid Kent MP Helen Whatley following an alleged incident.

She explained: "There have been reports of racist abuse in Faversham since the referendum. This is unacceptable, and I have asked the police what they are doing about it.

"By voting to leave the EU, the people of this country made clear that immigration needs to be controlled, but that doesn't give xenophobia a free pass. The NHS wouldn't function without an international workforce, our fruit farms here in Kent rely on seasonal labour from abroad. This country still needs workers from other countries if we are to have the growing economy and the open, outward-looking culture that make Britain great."

In an open letter from Kulbir Pasricha, strategic lead for community liaison at Kent Police, she said: "All forms of hate crime are unacceptable in any circumstances and we will respond robustly to any incidents. Hatred not only has the potential to cause serious physical and emotional harm, it can damage communities and cause division."

And it has not been confined to Faversham.

Maidstone MP Helen Grant explained: "I understand there has been a small increase in Medway and Dartford and also in Thanet."

Canterbury's Julian Brazier said he was also aware of incidents in his constituency.

Sir Roger Gale, for North Thanet, said: "I visited the Margate mosque and there is clearly very real concern arising from the xenophobia generated by Farage, and others during the referendum campaign."

Tory MP Craig Mackinlay in South Thanet said: "I do not feel it is at all helpful to link racist incidents with the Brexit vote; this is a time to celebrate Britain's unique position as a truly global country. Anybody who has suffered racial abuse should contact police immediately."

Police say they will deal robustly with any incidents of racism.

Garden city plans push ahead despite fears of Brexit housing crash

DEVELOPERS at Ebbsfleet Garden City claim it is business as usual despite the result of the EU referendum taking us out of the European Union and plunging confidence in the markets into disarray.

The initial decision to push ahead with the ambitious scheme was announced by chancellor George Osborne in 2014. Few would place bets now he will still be in post to see the next waves of homes built.

But bigger fears exist over concerns for the future of house builders, with shares plunging after the Brexit vote undermined confidence in the economy moving forward.

The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, tasked with driving forward the plans to build 15,000 new homes, met with land owners and building firms working on the garden city earlier this week.

During the meeting, it was announced work would begin on Monday for another 125 homes in the Castle Hill area of the development.

Earlier this year, planning was granted for a primary school and a community centre to be built in Castle Hill. Other developers are continuing work, with planning applications for a pub and a hotel expected to be submitted in the near future.

And there have been no signs yet of £350m of government funding no longer being made available.

Interim chief executive at EDC Paul Spooner said: "I was delighted to hear from our partners that it is business as usual in the garden city and they are all still on course with their plans.

"There is a real confidence here that there will be 600 new homes started in the garden city in the next year and that 300 of those will be completed. Like us, house builders have full confidence the real growth will continue.

"Demand for housing is not going to change and Ebbsfleet remains in a very strong position as a good location for investors."

Cops get tough in High St to crackdown on trouble zone

A DISPERSAL order has been enforced in Tonbridge to combat anti-social and abusive behaviour.

It follows concerns around the behaviour of people congregating in the High Street, close to the junction with Avebury Avenue.

The order came into force at 4pm on Friday and runs until 4pm today (Sunday).

It means anyone over ten-years-old can be directed to leave the area and not return for a stated period of time if an officer or PCSO believes they may be contributing to anti-social behaviour. Sgt Mark Ginsberg said: ''We don't have a big problem with antisocial behaviour in Tonbridge, however where and when issues do arise these powers are an effective way of dealing with people.''

Can you help find medal of war hero stolen from OAP?

THE hunt is on to recover a distinctive war medal with huge sentimental value, after a pensioner's home was raided by crooks.

Officers are investigating after the burglary in Riding Lane, Hildenborough.

Thieves forced a door to the property on May 26 but have only now made the crime public.

Detective Constable Jeremy Chapman said: ''The medal is of sentimental value to the victim, after it was issued in 1944 to his grandfather. It has the words 'Lieutenant Commander Frank Gordan Challen' engraved on the back.''

Anyone with information should contact the west Kent appeals number on 01622 604100, quoting reference YY/11230/16. Or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Tracing childhood steps of Rolling Stones star

ROLLING Stones guitarist Keith Richards is to front a BBC film showing what life was like growing up in post-war Dartford.

The Origin of the Species will tell the story of how the musician escaped death during the Second World War when a direct hit during a bombing raid sprayed his cot with bricks and mortar.

It will go on to portray Keith Richards' experiences during the deprivation of those post-war years, growing up with the rise of the National Health Service and the end of National Service, among other formative social experiences. It will extend to the point he joined the band. Keith Richards - The Origin of the Species will be aired on BBC Two in July.

Eurotunnel unleashes drones as it increases its security to stop migrants

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EUROTUNNEL has started deploying 'military grade' drones in France to help counter raids by migrants determined to invade the tracks.

It is claimed there are already some 500 cameras at the Eurotunnel site at Coquelles, but the company feels there are still some 'dead zones' that are not sufficiently covered.

The introduction of two new drones could help but Eurotunnel stresses they are not armed.

It follows on from the scenes of chaos last summer when migrants in Calais attempted to use the tunnel and its trains to gain access to the UK. The consequence was major delays on Eurotunnel and Eurostar services.

The site is also ringed with both floodlights and almost three miles of 9ft-high fencing that was mostly funded by a £7 million contribution from the British government.

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe told us: "The drones allow us the capability to get up above the terminal giving us much better vision if there is an alarm.

"The principle is that the drones will be used in response to an alert – they will fly at 150 metres and having a fantastic field of vision with both normal and thermal imaging means the whole area can be covered.

"They can work at night and in bad weather.

"The cost is confidential, but they are military grade. They are not armed, however, and are purely for surveillance. They are very robust, stable and powerful."

It comes amid fears voiced by Jacques Gounon, the firm's chief executive and chairman, who earlier this week said Brexit had given migrants a "clear signal" that the Anglo-French border would become "a huge wall, similar to the Berlin Wall, almost impossible to overcome".

Mr Gounon said "I'm afraid that any Brexit consequences could give a threat to migrants that they could be prevented from going to the UK – definitively going to the UK – in the years to come.

"This could generate an additional new migrant pressure, in order for such people, desperately, to reach the UK before Brexit is enforced."

EYE IN THE SKY: A drone

HOPEFUL: No. 31 in West Bay

Do we have the best beach hut in Britain?

AN EAST Kent beach hut is vying to be crowned beach hut of the year after it reached the final of a national competition.

No. 31, in West Bay, near Westgate-on-Sea, is owned by Lili Sanchez, and has been described as 'Aladdin's cave', due to its brimming walls filled with kitsch collectibles.

The hut even hosts Ms Sanchez' annual Christmas party for her and her family.

Now it has been shortlisted as a finalist for insurance company Towergate's Beach Hut of the Year 2016, and is facing competition from nine other beach huts in East Sussex, Dorset and Essex.

The winner will pick up a £1,000 prize for their beach hut association along with a commemorative plaque to go with a year's free beach hut insurance.

A judging panel including Location Location Location's Phil Spencer will help decide the winner alongside a public vote.

The TV personality said: "The winning beach hut doesn't have to necessarily be the most fancy – if it feels genuine inside and out and reflects the simple pleasures of life then you're on to a winner."

Family pays tribute to tragic football talent

THE family of a man who died crashing into a tree in Nonington last week have paid tributes to his life.

Owain Boughtwood, who recently returned home from California, halfway through his course at Santa Clara University, was taken to Kings College Hospital after his car crashed on Friday but died later of his injuries.

In statement his family said: "Owain was a skilled footballer with an awesome left foot and change of pace. From a young age he played for Folkestone Invicta and Ashford as well as representing Kent. He was a talented cricketer and all-round sportsman.

"He loved music and was an accomplished musician, teaching himself to play guitar and drums.

"All those who had the good fortune to know Owain, recognised how much of a sweet, loyal and decent man he was. He will be greatly missed by all those that knew and loved him."

Parents say they will wait for 'missing' son

THE parents of a Sittingbourne roofer found after vanishing for six years say they are happy to wait for their son to come home.

Matthew Green, 32, disappeared in 2010 after saying he was going to visit friends in London for the weekend before being found at a Spanish psychiatric ward.

While parents Pauline and Jim would like him home, they are bracing themselves for the possibility he made need another six months of care.

Speaking on ITV's This Morning on Monday, Mrs Green said: "At the moment he's on what they call section two which allows 28 days - within that he can appeal against what's happening with him and if the board he goes in front of decide he is okay, they can actually let him out.

"But the doctors have said it will probably run into section three which can last up to six months and we'd like him home obviously but long term he's not well enough so I want them to keep him for six months, longer if necessary, because he's safe."

Arrest for shooter on the run for 13 years

A GUNMAN who has been on the run for more than a decade after shooting his partner has been arrested by police on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean - 6,000 miles from his old Ashford home.

John Soares, 51, was sentenced in his absence at Maidstone Crown Court in May 2012 after he failed to attend his trial.

A jury convicted Soares of GBH after hearing how he shot his partner with a CO2-powered pistol, leaving her with pellets in her leg in July 2003.

Their young daughter was in the property at the time of the attack.

He failed to appear for court in 2004 but was arrested in 2011 and sentenced to eight months for breaching his bail. On his release, he disappeared again before he could be sentenced for the attack.

Following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Crime Agency and the French authorities, Soares was arrested last week under a European Arrest Warrant on the tropical French island. Extradition is now being sought.

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Rail bosses fume over timing of latest negative survey result

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

RAIL passengers using Southern and Southeastern services are the least satisfied in the country, according to a new report.

The National Rail Passenger Survey, published by Transport Focus, surveyed thousands of rail users up and down the country to gauge how commuters feel about travelling by rail.

Overall satisfaction dropped by six per cent for Southeastern users from spring last year, with less than 70 per cent claiming they thought they received a good service.

The rail company had one of the lowest levels of satisfaction when customers were asked how they felt about trains running on time. A third of people described the service's punctuality and reliability as 'poor', with a 17 per cent drop in customers claiming they were satisfied.

Only Southern, which operates services from Ashford to the south coast, and along the Kent/EastSussex border, had more disgruntled customers, with 36 per cent of commuters branding running times as 'poor'.

David Statham, managing director of Southeastern, said: "The figures are a snap shot of a very difficult period for Southeastern passengers last winter.

DELAYED: Southern and Southeastern services came bottom in the latest poll

"The survey was undertaken during the winter months when severe weather and infrastructure issues meant we were not able to give our passengers the services we want to provide and that they rightfully expect.

Southern passenger services director, Alex Foulds said: "We are disappointed but not surprised with these results. The survey was carried out after a prolonged period of poor performance due to the constraints of London Bridge.

"The effects of a new timetable introduced in December to improve performance were then lost amidst a series of infrastructure failures which severely affected punctuality and reliability during the survey period. These coupled with the after effects of Storm Imogen and two train failures in key locations made for a pretty miserable time for passengers.

"Once through this challenging period we did start to see performance begin to improve, although this has now been overtaken by the recent industrial action."

Tribute to son who 'spread happiness'

THE family of a Hythe motorcyclist killed in a crash on the A20 have paid tribute to his life.

Jason Edward Milnes, 26, died in Newingreen last Friday. He was described as "the greatest son a mum and dad could ever have had and loving brother. Adored for his unique outlook on life and selfless persona by family and a huge amount of friends of all ages, with a contagious ability to spread happiness and joy to everybody he met."

Jobs under threat as college cuts A levels

CANTERBURY College is to stop teaching A levels to new students - putting 16 jobs on the line.

The changes come into effect from September, though it has reassured its 97 current students they will be able to complete the second year of their courses and minimise the disruption to their studies.

Victim bottled at club

POLICE are appealing for information after a man was bottled and then narrowly avoided death outside a social club in Canterbury.

The victim, a man in his 30s, suffered a head injury that required hospital treatment and stitches, then, after falling into the road as a result of the blow, was nearly struck by a passing truck.

Witnesses should call 01843 222289.

Pitch invader handed three year football stadium ban

A GILLINGHAM supporter who invaded the pitch at Priestfield has been slapped with a three-year stadium ban.

Jack Spear, 23, will not be able to attend any regulated matches either in the UK or abroad for the length of the order, and risks being re-arrested should he breach it.

The Kingfisher Road, Larkfield, resident, who also goes by the name Jack Morley, received the ban when he appeared before Medway Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

He pleaded guilty to entering the playing area of a designated football match, which is a criminal offence under Section 4 of the Football (Offences) Act 1991, and was also given a £60 fine and ordered to pay £85 court costs.

Spear was arrested on May 8 during the final League One match of the season against Millwall after he ran onto the pitch to celebrate a goal.

Investigating officer Detective Constable James Chichester said: "The law is there to prevent disorder at football matches and to help ensure the safety of everyone in attendance, and we have a statutory duty to investigate when such incidents are reported to us."

Mother of two disabled sons neglected by KCC

A WORKING mum of two children with disabilities was let down by Kent County Council, the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has said.

She was given £1,000 in compensation after a recent investigation by the LGO found KCC applied a blanket restriction on the mother paying for childcare, when she needed extra support during working hours.

KCC took exception to her using her direct payments to pay for carers while her sons were off school in the summer, suggesting she use her annual leave to cover that period.

However, the council did not take into account that the mum already had to use most of her leave entitlement to attend her sons' health, education and social care appointments.

She complained and was referred to the LGO which found the assessments did not consider the family's needs in tandem.

There was no evidence KCC considered the family's needs in the school holidays and simply assumed the mum could take time off work.

Had the council assessed the family properly, it would have offered extra care hours, the LGO said.

As well as the compensation, KCC agreed to revise its direct payments policy and review the sufficiency of childcare and the range of short breaks available for older disabled children.

It will also provide more training for officers and managers carrying out social care.

Charge over MP threat

A RAMSGATE man has been charged after sending a threatening message on Facebook implying South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay 'needed' to be killed.

Mark Verier, 28, of High Street, has been bailed to appear at Margate Magistrates' Court on August 11.

Manor house flooded

THE historic Ightham Mote manor house was closed for several days this week following torrential rain and flooding.

Firefighters were called to the site, near Sevenoaks which welcomed the Antiques Roadshow last week, after water levels rose up to approximately 2.5 metres (7ft).

Bin collection changes

SEVERAL dustbin lorries broke down in Canterbury this week, leaving council bosses sweating over a backlog of rubbish.

As a result, collections from homes in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay have been brought forward by an hour to 6am every weekday and Saturday until July 9.

Top gong for Sportsman

A WHITSTABLE pub has beaten off competition from the likes of Gordon Ramsay and Heston Blumenthal to be named the UK's best restaurant.

The Sportsman describes itself as "a grotty rundown pub by the sea" but rose to the top in a list by Restaurant Magazine.

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Top Three Stories

1. IMAX cinema boost

Multiplex unveils big screen plan

2. OAPs in iTunes scam

Tricksters claim they are in tax arrears

3. Eurotunnel delays

Train breakdown adds two hours to trips

The Essential Guide:

...to Manston Airport

Everything you need to know about campaigns to get planes flying again in Thanet

FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Tourism champions Visit Kent are showing off the best of the Garden of England in a new ad campaign. Feast your eyes at the stunning selection of pictures in today's paper and online.

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Top Three Blogs

1. It's time to go, Jeremy

Labour leader Corbyn's race is run

2. Too reliant on phones?

Our devices are becoming an obsession

3. Don't Tell the Bride

It's always the same but we love it anyway

Results of online poll

Would your vote change in a second referendum?

1. From Leave to Remain = 10%
2. From Remain to Leave = 4 %
3. Still vote Remain = 46 %
4. Still vote Leave = 35 %
5. Didn't vote, still wouldn't = 4 %

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CONTENDERS: From left to right Liam Fox, Theresa May, Stephen Crabb, Angela Leadsom and Michael Gove. Kent's MPs are now pondering whose campaign they will get behind

Who will be next prime minister?

By Simon Allin
simon.allin@archant.co.uk

The only thing we know for certain, after a crazy week in Westminster, is that it is not going to be Boris Johnson

MICHAEL Gove's decision to pull the rug from beneath Boris Johnson's feet in the race to become the next prime minister has been described as "the most extraordinary behaviour the party has ever seen" by a former Tory cabinet minister.

Former immigration minister Damian Green, Conservative MP for Ashford, said he was left stunned by the remarkable events of the week – culminating in the high drama of Thursday morning.

Expected to declare – and already the bookmakers' favourite to succeed – the former London mayor sensationally declared he was out of the running just minutes before the deadline.

It came after Michael Gove, who had worked alongside him in the Brexit campaign and had been expected to run on a Gove/Johnson ticket for leadership, opted instead to pull his support and run himself.

It almost certainly now paves the way for home secretary Theresa May to take over the party in one of the most remarkable periods in British political history, following the EU referendum result.

Mr Green told KoS: "I was shocked by what happened on Thursday. I feel sorry for Boris – to have it shot from under him on the morning of the launch is the most extraordinary behaviour I have ever seen in the party.

"There is the stress of the leadership election, but the party is getting back together and then we will get back to running the country."

Mr Green says he will support Mrs May for leader.

He explained: "I worked with her for four years as a home office minister, and I saw how effective she was.

"The vision she set out at her launch was a national, moderate conservatism that I have always believed in.

"I am disappointed with the Brexit vote. It creates huge problems for the country, but I suppose we need to make the best of the situation.

"Theresa is in the best position to do that, because she supported Remain but she has set up a new department to negotiate the terms of Brexit, and that will be run by someone who backed leave, and that is a sensible way."

It remains to be seen quite how the fury of Mr Johnson's supporters – and those who stood on amazed within the party – will react to Michael Gove's campaign bid. It is by no means a certainty he will even make the second ballot when the list is whittled down to just two.

Although the clout of the others running for office are certainly less high profile.

They include work and pensions secretary Stephen Crabb, energy minister Angela Leadsom and a former contender, Liam Fox.

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale is another who has lent his support to Theresa May.

He attended her leadership launch and was impressed with what he saw. He said: "I have been involved in politics for more than 50 years and Mrs May's speech was one of the most powerful, and impressive for its quiet dignity that I have ever heard.

"I believe in her we have found someone who has emerged with the experience, skill and ability to reunite not just, or even, the Conservative Party but the whole country.

"She accepts the reality of the EU vote and she is ready to bat for Britain."

Sir Roger, who describes himself as a Eurosceptic, but who voted to Remain, was highly critical of the Leave campaigners, saying he thought Mr Johnson and Mr Gove "had no plan and they were going to force it on the prime minister".

"He [Boris] went off in another direction," he explained. "What was said during the campaign was dishonest, like the £350m for the NHS, and they have been backpedalling like hell since the referendum and saying there is nothing like it and we won't be able to control immigration.

"You begin to wonder what people were voting for.

"Whoever gets the job needs to be someone with a sense of vision, determination, considerable courage and the ability to unite the party," Sir Roger added. "I don't think many of the senior Leave campaigners have got that."

The rush for a new leader comes as many suspect a snap general election to provide a mandate for a new look government to guide the nation forward to Brexit.

"I am not sure that there will be a new election," Sir Roger said. "We may need a government of the national interest, when people from all parties work together for the good of the nation."

Craig Mackinlay, Tory MP for South Thanet, was an outspoken Leave supporter. But he admits after all the events of the week, he is undecided as to who to vote for.

"It's a tough one," he admitted. "I'm not really quite there yet."

Mr Mackinlay gave four criteria for the new leader to satisfy: being able to unite the party, being a Brexit enthusiast, having electoral appeal and having the right 'spectrum of conservatism'.

"At the end of the day, you have got to unite the party," he said. "I am interested in who is likely to be a team – it is not a job for one person."

Mr Mackinlay suggested that, paradoxically, the Conservative party's divisions over the EU were a source of strength.

"The Conservative Party reflected exactly the split in the country and was completely in tune with the result," he explained.

"The party that was unreflective was Labour – they completely got it wrong."

Canterbury and Whitstable MP Julian Brazier, who backed the Brexit campaign, is supporting Andrea Leadsom – seen very much as an outsider at this early stage in the process.

"She has a remarkable grasp of the economy with a wealth of experience from the City," he said. "Throughout the bruising referendum campaign her cool composure showed her to be decisive without ever becoming corrosive.

"Andrea has the strengths that Britain needs to negotiate a good deal with the European Union and take our great country forward."

Remain supporter Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald, would not be drawn on the person she planned to support for the leadership.

"The referendum decision was beyond party politics," she said. "All that matters now is that we select a new leader who can form a united government that will deliver the best possible outcome for the country."

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Pressure mounts on Corbyn to go

Simon Allin speaks to councillors and grassroots Labour supporters as the party faces what some senior officials say is the single biggest crisis it has ever faced. So is it time for Jeremy Corbyn to finally step down as the party's leader?

AS PRESSURE continues to grow on Jeremy Corbyn's position as Labour leader, there is an increasing chorus of opposition from leading figures in the party across Kent.

Where once the party in the county was broadly supportive of his overwhelming election success, now there is a sense his lack of commitment to remaining in Europe and his failure to win over floating supporters right here, is spelling out a vote of no confidence among local councillors which is stretching far further than Westminister.

Yet, many members and grassroots Labour groups remain committed to a man high on principles but low on broader appeal.

Tristan Osborne was opposed to Mr Corbyn's election at the time, telling KoS last year that his victory could result in Labour returning to the problems it experienced under Michael Foot in the early 1980s.

The Labour councillor on Medway Council and the party's candidate in the recent Kent police and crime commissioner elections, said for the good of the party, his leader needs to step down.

Mr Osborne told us this week: "I 100 per cent support the position the parliamentary Labour Party has taken, which is that he is not coming through to the voters in Kent and other parts of the country and he now needs to step aside for someone who can connect with people.

"It is very clear across the movement that he does not have the confidence of people around him.

"He needs to move on now for the good of the party and we need to pick someone who can work with the team to oppose the Conservatives."

That appeal in Kent is absolutely essential if Labour want to mount any sort of realistic challenge to the Conservatives should a snap general election be held.

The county is currently dominated by the Conservatives. But when Labour last won power it held a number of seats across Kent – returning MPs in the likes of South Thanet, Dover, Medway, Sittingbourne and Dartford. All are now relatively comfortable Tory strongholds.

In Ashford this week, Labour councillor Jill Britcher resigned from the local council, citing Mr Corbyn's leadership and his failure to campaign effectively for the Remain campaign during the EU referendum. Such was her displeasure, she has even resigned from a party she has been a member of for more than 30 years.

And it is concerns the party is losing that sort of stalwart which further compounds a desire to see change – especially those who rely on the electorate.

Gordon Cowan is leader of the Labour group on Kent County Council. He explained: "If we are going to win an election, we need to win MPs in Kent, and until that happens we will not win.

"Last time we won, we had nine MPs in Kent and that is what we need to go for.

"My colleagues are behind the national party and we want to get on with the job of pushing our policies within Kent and throughout the country and make sure we get Kent MPs elected."

Mr Corbyn has spent the week steadfastily refusing to budge – despite a no confidence motion by Labour MPs comfortably going against him, with 172 calling for him to quit and just 40 backing him. In addition, his shadow cabinet has been decimated by a rash of resignations.

And while few doubt Labour's core beliefs are in his blood, many fear his form of politics no longer strikes an accord with the wider population.

Thanet Labour councillor Peter Campbell said he would back Angela Eagle in a leadership contest, and was also doubtful of Mr Corbyn's wider appeal.

"We need to have an aspiration for power – not for power's sake, but to implement policies," he said.

"I think Corbyn will attract a small band of people but he doesn't have a broad church appeal.

"If he was my MP, I would think he was the best MP I had ever had. He is a tremendous MP, but as a leader he just doesn't get it – like Michael Foot.

"I will be backing Angela Eagle – she appeals to a broad church."

That desire to inject aspiration into Labour's political thrust has long been seen as a failure to learn from Tony Blair's success at delivering three consecutive Labour administrations. But as the party seeks to distance itself from its former leader, so some of his election-winning beliefs have been diluted.

Tunbridge Wells councillor Diane Hill also gave her backing to Mrs Eagle, who was shadow business minister before she resigned from Mr Corbyn's cabinet this week.

"We need someone like Angela with new ideas," the Labour councillor said. "Jeremy has been around a long time, but Angela brings something different to the table.

"We have never had a woman leader and it is time we did. If Theresa May wins, it would be good to have two women at the despatch box."

While councillors generally appeared hostile to Mr Corbyn, his leadership is evidently more popular among grassroots supporters. And ultimately, due to changes made under Ed Miliband's tenure as leader, that is where the ultimate decision will lie.

Mike Bland, campaign coordinator for Canterbury Labour Party, explained: "Within Canterbury and Whitstable, the majority of people are deeply unhappy with the parliamentary Labour Party's efforts to unseat Jeremy as leader when he was elected with a huge mandate last September.

"Members feel the party needs to be united in fighting the Tories in the wake of the EU referendum.

"In Canterbury, we notched up the biggest swing from the Tories to Labour in the whole of south east England... and there is the belief that we can continue and build more support.

"At the outset of 2015, we had 350 members and were the largest Labour Party in Kent. We now have more than 1,000 members, and large number are young people.

"People say Jeremy's message does not get across to the working class, but I can tell you that is nonsense.

"When talking to them about what are their real issues, their problems are about losing jobs, zero-hours contracts, casual labour, and when I talk to them and say that is not migrants, it is this Tory government's lack of investment."

Former Maidstone councillor Malcolm McKay originally did not support Mr Corbyn, but he changed his mind after being inspired by the leader's democratic approach.

"He is different, and that is difficult for some Labour MPs to accept," he explained.

"He is honest and modest, and his belief in democracy is so refreshing.

"He believes members should determine the policies of the party, whereas MPs wish to determine the policy because they think they know best.

"Jeremy Corbyn attracted a lot of new members that we had lost in the 2000s after Iraq and appalling decisions by the Labour government.

"He says we should re-nationalise the railways. The majority of people fully support that, but it is reported as something radical.

"The NHS was radical. Being radical is what the Labour Party is all about."

Mr McKay predicted that this popularity with ordinary Labour members means that if there is a leadership election, Mr Corbyn will win with a huge majority.

Of course, the divide between politicians and grassroots supporters is by no means unanimous.

Mike Eddy, Dover District Council's Labour leader, blamed the media for Mr Corbyn's woes and suggested the party was not faring too badly in Kent.

He told KoS: "I support the leader of the party, whoever it is. I am backing the Labour Party.

"Whatever happens with a Labour leader – I saw it with Blair, Brown and Ed Miliband – there is a strong right-wing press which sets out to undermine the individual.

"With Miliband, it was the way he ate a bacon sandwich; with Corbyn, it is because he does not wear Armani suits and Gucci shoes.

"If we elected someone with Armani suits and Gucci shoes, he would be written off by the right-wing press as too posh for Labour.

"Whoever ends up as Labour leader will be criticised by the Daily Mail and The Express, and that is a great shame because we should be having grown-up politics."

Mr Eddy defended the Labour leader's referendum campaign, which he also suggested received an unfairly small amount of media coverage.

"The key thing is 60 to 70 per cent of the Labour vote came out for remain," he pointed out.

"Look at the Tory areas and say why did they not support remain, which was supported by the prime minister and the chancellor?

"I would say there are an awful lot of people in the county who support Jeremy.

"We had a by-election for a town councillor on the same day as the referendum, and Labour won that seat with a massive majority.

"A lot of people were voting leave but definitely voting Labour. A lot voted leave and I think that was a protest vote against Cameron and austerity. The reality is that we will end up with more austerity.

"Labour has the potential to win in Kent."

Whether Mr Corbyn is the right man to deliver that remains to be seen.

DETERMINED: Jeremy Corbyn has so far stood firm despite a vote of no confidence from his own MPs

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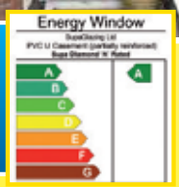

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The Somme: A battlefield we should never be allowed to forget

At 7.30am on July 1, 1916, British troops left their trenches to face their enemy who was waiting, machine guns at the ready. By the end of the day 19,240 of them lay dead. The slaughter continued and would claim 1.3m casualties on all sides...

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THERE can be no single better example of the futility of the First World War than the battle which raged across the Somme in 1916.

As events to mark the centenary continue to take place this weekend to mark when it began on July 1, the scale of the losses during a see-saw bid to advance the Western Front has lost none of its horrific enormity.

In total, 57,470 British casualties were suffered on the first day alone – 19.240 of which were killed.

As the battle in the French countryside raged on for another 140 days, by the end, the British casualty toll stood at 419,654. On both sides, that rose to 1.3 million.

Remarkably, during the conflict which came at such a cost, the British line advanced a mere six miles.

Peter Read, from Gravesend, was one of those who secured a ticket in a ballot to attend the main memorial service – attended by members of the royal family – in Thieval.

The memorial is a striking monument to more than 72,000 soldiers who died during the battle but have no known grave.

Speaking this week before heading to the site in northern France, the former head

GRIEF THAT LASTED A LIFETIME...

FOR some of the thousands killed on the Somme, the battle lasted for mere seconds. For their loved ones, the pain lasted a lifetime.

Many of the units that went over the top on July 1, 1916, were 'Pals Battalions', volunteer units raised the previous year from men who lived, worked and socialised together in the same cities, towns and villages across Britain.

In the French mud many of them would die together, leaving gaping holes in their local communities and in their families.

One officer killed on July 1 would remain a mystery to his family for decades because of the agony his memory caused to his widow.

Major George Sutherland Guyon was a career British Army officer, who had seen service in the Boer War and had been wounded during the disastrous Gallipoli campaign in Turkey in 1915.

The Royal Fusiliers' officer was drafted in at a week's notice to lead the 16th Battalion, the West Yorkshire Regiment – better known as the 1st Bradford Pals.

Like hundreds of his men, he went over the top and was dead within minutes, shot in the head most likely by a German sniper. His body was never found, with the area later obliterated by shellfire. Today he is one of the thousands of missing dead whose names are on the Thiepval Memorial.

An unknown compatriot was left to fill in his diary entry for July 1, which simply read "killed".

His wife at home in England, who was pregnant with his second son, was so traumatised that she destroyed everything associated with him and it was decades before the rest of the family would find out about how he died.

Maj Guyon's grandson David, 70, said: "After he was killed his widow, my granny, was in shock. She was in grief. My father, who was then five-and-a-half, looked like his dad, had adopted some of his dad's mannerisms, she found that very difficult.

"She was so grief-stricken that she took away all the pictures that she could find of him, all the wedding photographs, all the letters, and she burned them all. And he was never mentioned. Certainly no one could talk to her about that without causing terrible upset, so everyone just kept away from that subject because it was just too awful.

"My father, you could not talk about it, you could not have any kind of discussion about it, until about the 1980s when he was then in his 70s. So you are talking about 70 years of just no one talking about it."

Pals Battalions were raised early on in the war, when it became clear that the professional but comparatively small British Army was massively outnumbered. Although none were formed in Kent, they played a vital role.

They were the men who were inspired by the famously moustachioed Lord Kitchener's 'Your Country Needs You' campaign.

SOLEMN: Soldiers lay wreaths during a service to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the battle of the Somme at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial in Thiepval, France, where 70,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave are commemorated. Picture: Chris Noble/PA Wire

teacher explained: "Somme is in people's souls, because it was such as waste of lives.

"It went on for six months. The fruitlessness of it all is what stays.

"Stories of the horror did not emerge at first. The soldiers didn't come back with the stories of what they had experienced as, to a man, they were so traumatised.

"It wasn't until after the war it seeped out.

"It's just unbelievable what happened there. A war of attrition. I find it difficulty to believe still.

"I had two grandparents who both fought on the Somme. One joined in August 1914 and ended with a military medal but he suffered at the

Continued on page 16

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SERVICE: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry follow French president Francois Hollande and prime minister David Cameron at a service at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial in Thiepval

THE SOMME TODAY

A 100-year-old trench, its edges now smoothed over by verdant overgrowth, snakes through a French meadow.

Craters carved by bombs in the Battle of the Somme still pock the countryside.

A century on, a bird's-eye view of the First World War battleground conveys the unprecedented scale of what happened.

Fields across a swath of northern France became home to soldiers from Britain and the Commonwealth, France and Germany as they faced off across the front in the summer of 1916.

On July 1, this eerie, bucolic landscape hosted British royals, other dignitaries and youths from across Europe to commemorate the battle.

The gathering comes at a poignant moment, as continental unity is under a new threat following Britain's vote to quit the 28-nation European Union.

Today, grass covers the Lochnagar Crater, a dent in the earth that is 299ft wide and 69ft deep. It is a huge, unusual peace memorial near the French town of Ovillers-la-Boisselle.

At Beaumont-Hamel, what looks like a ribbon of grassy knolls from the air is actually a preserved section of the trench line. Generations of British schoolchildren have come here to learn about the war.

Rows and rows of crosses and simple markers surround the towering brick Thiepval Memorial, honouring tens of thousands of British and South African forces who died in the Somme and have no known grave.

They are among the battle's many victims. Six months of fighting left more than 400,000 soldiers dead or missing.

Continued from page 15

Somme – unable to work due to a mental disorder for the next 40 years But he never spoke about it. They never did.

"My other grandfather, half-blinded on the Somme, spent the rest of his life unable to work properly.

"These are the real casualties because they spent a lifetime with it."

Some 10,000 people attended the memorial on the fields where the battle raged on Friday.

Prime minister David Cameron, French president Francois Hollande, the Dukes and Duchesses of Cornwall and Cambridge, and Prince Harry, led the guests gathered at the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme that towers over the battlefield in France.

Ceremonies across the UK had earlier on Friday honoured the hundreds of thousands of victims of the brutal offensive.

A two-minute silence ended at 7.30am, the time when the British, Commonwealth and French forces went "over the top" a century ago.

Writing in the programme for Friday's commemoration in France, Prince Charles wrote that "their sacrifice and suffering will never be forgotten".

He added: "It is truly terrifying to imagine the destruction wrought across this landscape 100 years ago. However, we now return to the battlefield in a spirit of reconciliation and respect.

"We honour the men who served from across Britain and Ireland, the Commonwealth and from France.

"We remember, too, the men from Germany who fought and fell in this most futile of conflicts. Their perseverance and courage when faced with such a monumental challenge are truly humbling."

Charles, Mr Cameron and Mr Hollande were among those who gave readings during the Thiepval ceremony, alongside serving forces personnel.

Actors Charles Dance, Jason Isaacs and Joely Richardson narrated events.

The royals wore a poppy and cornflower brooch, with the latter, called the "bleuet", having the same symbolism of remembrance in France as the poppy in Britain.

The brooches were made by French designer Catherine Desclaux and were worn by all the schoolchildren taking part in the ceremony.

British children laid wreaths at French graves and vice versa in the shared graveyard by the memorial.

Mr Hollande and Prince Charles later led the senior politicians and royals in laying wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice by the memorial.

Adds Peter Read, no stranger to the killing fields of northern France: "One of the things about the Somme is that you can visit cemeteries, see the front line, go to various woods where hundreds died, there are a lot of landmarks you can visualise.

"At Vimy Ridge, which is on way down to the Somme there are trenches you can walk in. So you can work out what happened – you can visit the bit of the front where the Christmas football match took part. People still find unexploded bomb shells there."

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Are you embarrassed by your teeth?

Get your confidence back with no downtime with this new Dental Implant system!

Dr Pieter Claassen of Hanover House, a local dental clinic is experiencing high demand for dental implants due to an advanced technique called PRGF which they offer to patients that are having dental implants.

This new system encourages healing at an accelerated rate which means patients are able to go about their normal, everyday life without any or very little down-time.

Patients travel from all over, demanding this unique treatment which is also being used to help sportsmen and women speed up the healing process following injury. PRGF stands for Plasma Rich Growth Factors, – referred to as accelerated healing by the Hanover House dental implant team.

The Problem

If you are one of the thousands of people suffering from missing or painful teeth you do not need to be reminded that it is very likely you will experience any or all of the following problems.

- Not being able to eat what you want
- Having to use fixative several times a day which is difficult to remove from your denture
- Your confidence has dropped
- You don't enjoy food anymore because of the denture covering the roof of your mouth
- You find yourself talking with your hand in front of your mouth to either stop a loose denture from moving or to hide an embarrassing gap
- When did you last smile?
- You have bone loss where the denture is pressing on underlying bone
- You can often hear a 'funny sound' when the denture chews against another denture or teeth
- You have as constant fear you will lose or break your dentures
- Dogs love chewing dentures that lie unattended.

Pieter Claassen - Implant Dentist at Hanover House Dental in Tonbridge

The excitement

For most of us suffering from ill-fitting denture, painful or lose teeth, all of the problems can be eliminated through the use of dental implants.

Dr Claassen says, "Most patients normally have dental implants to stabilise loose and uncomfortable dentures or to replace embarrassing missing teeth. Having fixed teeth again means that they can eat and enjoy the food they want and have the confidence to smile in family photos again."

PRGF is 100% Natural

The system is the magic solution that helps to speed up the healing process after the procedure, promoting our own unique healing factors to burst into action. Using the revolutionary PRGF system also increases the success rate.

For the first time ever Hanover House Dental Practice are offering the PRGF system completely free of charge when a dental implant is placed. Normally this amazing new treatment would cost £350.00 but for a limited period only Dr Claassen is offering it for FREE!

Clinical Results

In a study of 1391 dental implant placements using PRGF, the success rate was 99.6%. This shows just how special PRGF is, and as our free introductory gift to you, Dr Claassen wants to provide it free of charge - but not for long. In fact, you only have until Friday 8th July 2016 to take up this offer!

Patients who have osteoporosis often receive medication to strengthen their bones. Unfortunately, in some cases it can lead to the opposite - impaired healing of bone structure. PRGF is excellent for patients potentially at risk of dental implant failure, shortening the time it takes for the body to accept your implants.

The Benefits

There are many benefits when a patient chooses to have dental implants and using the PRGF system only increases those benefits…

Below are just a few;

1. Faster healing time; Less down time
2. Reduced pain and swelling
3. No one will know unless you want them too!
4. Natural healing from your healing factors
5. Get back your quality of life

How it works

PRGF – Plasma Rich Growth Factor is a 100% natural product specific and unique to each patient. A small amount of blood is placed in a centrifuge and separated in different layers. Only the parts, rich in growth factors are then used and applied onto the implant and the surrounding areas in the mouth.

In the several years PRGF have been used in different medical fields there has never been a reported side effect.

What people say

"Pieter worked painstakingly to achieve the perfect finish. The dental implants have given me back my smile and confidence and I no longer have to worry about what I eat"
Mrs. P. Mahoney – Speldhurst

"Having dental implants was well worth the effort and the difference was extraordinary, making it the best decision I ever made. I used to be self-conscious about my teeth. I wouldn't eat in public in case my dentures fell out and I hated how they felt in my mouth. Since having dental implants I am so much happier. I can eat what I want, when I want, including apples and I am much more confident. Even my friends have commented on how happy and relaxed I look."
Stephen Barnham - Tonbridge

Ken, a patients of Dr Claassen at Hanover House Dental Practice says… *"I wasn't certain about going down this route but now feel SMILES better!"* which is evident in his before and after treatment photos.

Mr Ken Winch BEFORE Treatment

Mr Ken Winch AFTER Treatment

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As the dust settles after Brexit vote, just what will Leave mean?

It has been one of the most remarkable weeks in British politics, and comes as consequence of voting to quit the European Union. In a special report, we look at the key topics and the impact on Kent...

By Tom Pyman

LAST Thursday's decision to leave the European Union is already having a seismic effect on our lives, and is set to continue to do so for many years.

It was billed as the most important decision in Britain for a generation, with the ramifications significant, not just for us but our children and grandchildren.

There has been an immediate impact – the value of the pound has fallen through the floor, there is uncertainty in the markets, and the pressure on our elected leaders is proving intense (see pages 11 & 12).

David Cameron announced his intention to step down as prime minister before the Conservative party conference, and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has come under fire with his own MPs passing a vote of no confidence in him.

There have also been ugly scenes of racist abuse throughout the country, which many believe is connected to the Brexit vote.

Leave campaigners say things will get better but it's certainly been a rocky few days for Britain.

But what about the impact on Kent?

Our MPs have reacted to the news

Continued on page 20

FALLOUT: The seismic shocks of the EU referendum result rumble on... embroiling the leaders of both the Labour (above) and Conservative (top) parties

EU REFERENDUM: THE FALLOUT

Continued from page 19

and are unsurprisingly split, given their conflicting campaigns in the build up to the referendum

Helen Whately, representative for Faversham and Mid Kent, said: "I came to the view before this referendum that life would be better if we stayed in the EU. I had just one vote, but I was asked by many people for my view so I made it public.

"Now the country has voted to leave the EU, I sincerely hope I will be proved wrong.

"More than that, my job now is to make sure we make the most of this decision and that as a country we seize the opportunity it provides to change things for the better.

"I've already spoken to some of the biggest businesses in Faversham and mid Kent about the referendum result.

"They need economic stability and clarity, as quickly as possible.

"Given that these businesses provide so many local jobs, I will do all I can as an MP to make sure we get that."

On the other side of the fence was fellow Conservative and MP for Canterbury Julian Brazier.

"Once the immediate shock of the result has sunk in, we will be able to get onto a glide path leading to an exit over the next two or three years, on sensible terms for ourselves and our neighbours," he said.

"Our commitment to our universities remains unchanged and continued cooperation with many European institutions remains in all of our interests.

"Many science projects are European in scale but not part of the EU.

"The European Space Agency that sent Major Tim Peake into space is not part of the EU.

"CERN, which carries out cutting edge research, is in Switzerland and has many non EU members contributing.

"Farmers will also be looked after, given the importance of food security to our lives.

"And British fishermen may finally have a chance to reverse the damage that the Common Fisheries Policy did to their industry."

In this special report, we investigate some of the key implications of Brexit and how they will affect us in Kent.

IN/OUT: Theresa May and Boris Johnson locked horns on the EU

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EU REFERENDUM: THE FALLOUT

TRANSPORT

A CAMPAIGN group from Cranbrook is celebrating the Brexit result, believing it will be a shot in the arm in its fight for a fairer deal for Britain's drivers.

Fair Fuel UK campaigns for lower petrol and diesel prices, and founder Howard Cox says he is writing to the leading Conservative party frontrunners in the leadership race to ensure progression is done quickly and efficiently so motorists can benefit.

The group, which now has some 1.3million supporters, aims to lower fuel duty by 3p per litre by 2020 and has been successful since its inception in 2011 in limiting price hikes on tax from central government, estimating to have made £57billion of savings.

It also strives to remove VAT from the price of fuel, what it describes as a double taxation, and believes leaving the EU is the perfect opportunity to do that.

Mr Cox told KoS: "Overall, Fair Fuel UK supporters wanted out of the EU and, as with last year's general election, they had the poll result for the EU referendum spot on.

"Things will be volatile for two or three months and there's this period of uncertainty.

"We've received scaremongering from the AA that petrol would go up nearly 20p a litre but I don't think that will be the case at all.

"What's vital now is for the Brexit administration to move quickly to quench the greedy opportunistic oil and currency speculators exploiting Brexit for personal profits.

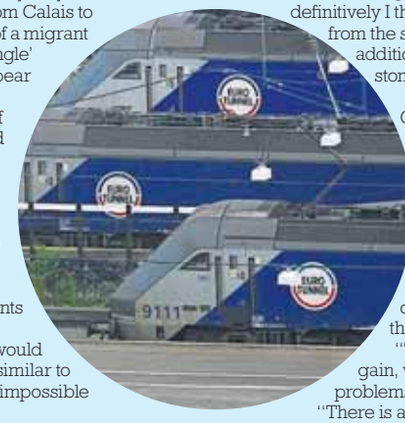
"The government must tell us now what is the exit deal detail they are to negotiate with the EU for the UK's 37 million drivers.

"They need to know as soon as possible that whilst still having the highest fuel duty in the western world, what the new policy plans for our roads, taxation and emissions standards out of the EU are going to be."

BORDERS

IMMIGRATION was at the heart of the referendum campaign, and the decision to quit means a wait-and-see approach to our borders.

Politicians in France say they want to see the border moved back from Calais to Dover, although fears of a migrant camp similar to 'the jungle' popping up in Kent appear misplaced.



However, the head of Eurotunnel has warned of a summer surge in illegal migrants trying to enter Britain from France.

Jacques Gounon, the firm's chief executive and chairman, said Brexit had given migrants a "clear signal" the Anglo-French border would become "a huge wall, similar to the Berlin Wall, almost impossible to overcome".

However, he said the firm did not support the idea of moving the UK border from its current locations, as set out in the 1986 Treaty of Canterbury and Protocol de Sangatte in 1991, after Brexit.

"We are working very efficiently, jointly, with UK Border Force on the border issues for 25 years and so I don't believe that for the shuttle, for the fixed link, there is any interest to change the way the controls are working," he said.

"Because it is very efficient, we are catching and giving to the police force all the information in order to protect the site and to capture the migrants. I don't see what could be done more.

"The drones [armed with cameras to boost security on the French side of the tunnel by spotting potential trespassers] are of course the way to increase the speed.

"We are working with these border issues, but definitively I think there is no interest at all, from the shuttle point of view, to have an additional border control in Folkestone, at the exit of the tunnel."

Thaddée Segard, president of Opale Link Association, which aims to improve the cross-frontier position of Calais and promote its economic, social and cultural development, admits fears are growing across the Channel.

"There is an attitude of 'why do we have to suffer the consequences of doing this for the British?'.

"The French have nothing to gain, we only suffer from these problems.

"There is a lot of defence here, and it's very, very difficult for migrants to get to the tunnel - I don't think a lot of British people realise the money we spend to protect it.

"We need to make sure the cross-border relationship remains smooth over the next few weeks and find a solution together."

With Britain intending to cut ties with Brussels, Mr Segard suggests forming other links between major towns and cities either side of the Channel.

"If London, Paris and Brussels are no longer together, I'd like to create relationships between Ashford and Lille, for example," he said.

"If we do this we can tackle problems together because that way we are stronger."

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EU REFERENDUM: THE FALLOUT

BUSINESS

THERE has already been a mixed reaction from businesses over the last week, with the chancellor insisting Britain is still "open for business" despite pre-election warnings of severe cuts and tax hikes.

The Federation of Small Businesses admitted it was something of a waiting game in the coming weeks, as chairman Mike Cherry said: "FSB calls on the government for clarity on what these decisions now mean for business, including how businesses will have access to the single market and the free movement of people and trade.

"These are crucial questions that need to be answered swiftly to ensure the UK's 5.4 million small businesses' confidence does not fall any further, which is already at the lowest levels since 2013.

"This includes clarity over the practical implications of this result on how smaller firms do business."

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, which represents firms across the county, agreed there needed to be clarity, particularly on large infrastructure projects that affect Kent.

"The big decisions – on airports, energy generation, HS2, lower Thames crossing, housebuilding and more – need to be followed through," she said.

"The decision to delay a post-referendum budget must not be a convenient excuse for ministers to duck these important choices.

"Action and momentum over the coming months are vital to stoking the embers of business confidence."

Andrew Baxter, managing director of Dartford-based logistics operator Europa Worldwide Group, supported the Leave campaign and said: "This is a great opportunity for Britain.

"Even though the world does not yet seem to realise, Britain has just taken a step that will ultimately make it economically safer and more secure.

"The EU is on the wrong course. The euro cannot work without a superstate, and a superstate will not work in practice.

"It's time for the EU to rethink its direction."

However, the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association admits leaving the EU risks new costs, restrictions and bureaucratic requirements being imposed on moving goods in and out of Europe.

Chief executive David Wells said: "Even though we are coming out of Europe politically, it remains our biggest export market and the supplier of a high proportion of our imports.

"We cannot allow new bureaucratic burdens to hamper the efficient movement of exports heading for customers and imported goods destined for British consumers.

"The government has two years to ensure the conditions currently imposed on other non-EU member states such as Albania and Serbia are not imposed on UK freight flows.

"Norway and Switzerland have better arrangements but have accepted tough conditions including the free movement of people, so this will be a difficult negotiation.

"Britain may be out of Europe but it's not out of business and FTA will be leading the campaign on behalf of exporters and importers to keep trade procedures simple and the costs of international transport down."

HOMES

WITH the pound going through the floor, and the stock market proving volatile, some prospective housebuyers have pulled the plug on deals at the last minute due to the uncertainty that lies ahead.

However, that has not been the case across the board, as Charles Proctor, of the estate agent Proctors, told KoS: "Five weeks ago we were really busy and we have a way to go to get back to that, but we always knew the market would be quieter before the referendum, and it was.

"We have put four properties for sale [since the vote] - one of them has received 18 viewings, and we've already had offers."

The London housing crisis has meant Kent has often had to shoulder the burden of a population overspill, as seen in Canterbury earlier this year when 200 homes went to the London Borough of Redbridge ahead of the local council.

Mr Proctor added: "People like to own their own property and I don't see that changing, so when there's demand but not enough new-builds, prices are only going to go one way.

"Long-term though, none of us really know what will happen."

A spokesperson for the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors added: "There are questions around the impact on access to a skilled workforce to meet the country's construction and infrastructure needs.

"We need reassurance that workforce migration will be addressed as a priority and it must not be allowed to impact on the attractiveness of the UK for investment, or as a place where major corporate and industrial occupiers want to do business."

He added: "Regardless of our relationship with the EU we need to ensure investment into UK property and infrastructure continues.

"While Whitehall focuses energies into the exit negotiation, Britain must meet the housing supply and infrastructure challenges it continues to face."

EU REFERENDUM: THE FALLOUT

FARMING

THE concern for many in the agricultural industry is the supply of labour following the exit from the EU.

Traditionally, UK farmers have relied on seasonal workers from EU countries, with the jobs proving more difficult to fill locally.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) estimates that a further 40,819 seasonal workers are needed every year in England to help grow, harvest and pack the produce.

Retired apple grower, John Guest, told KoS: "Our industry depends on the willingness of hard-working people from within the EU.

"Thirty years ago we employed housewives who were able to come in at 9am and leave at 3pm to pick up their kids from school.

"Now we're under such pressure from the supermarkets so we depend on this labour.

"There are English people involved in operations of course but even the management is now European because they're prepared to work at the bottom and work their way up.

"There's a myth that it's badly paid - people in this industry get paid well above the national wage rate and we need to raise awareness of this for local people.

"But I suspect deals will be done and it will all be smoothed over because people know the industry would decline rapidly without access to these workers."

Marion Regan, of Hugh Lowe Farms in Maidstone, added: "We hugely value our key employees who come from other European countries and their skills and commitment to our farm business."

The NFU agrees that a lot of current arrangements need to remain in place over the coming years.

President Meurig Raymond said: "Although we will not be a member of the EU, it will still be our major trading partner for the foreseeable future.

"During the referendum period these schemes were assured until 2020 allowing for farm businesses to plan ahead.

"I have stressed the need for schemes, such as the rural development scheme and the basic payment scheme, to remain in place with the promised safeguards being made in the forthcoming period of negotiation.

"Leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to build a new British agricultural policy which is adapted to our needs – one that's easy to understand and simple to administer.

"We have a golden opportunity to ensure our arrangements in the future are proportionate and decisions are based on sound science.

"We will be looking for guarantees from government that the support given to our farmers is equal to that given to farmers in the EU, who will still be our principal competitors."

EDUCATION

A NUMBER of senior figures at universities up and down the country were campaigning for Remain in the run-up to the election and admit there are likely to be implications in the education sector.

However, there is a general feeling of uncertainty in Kent, that matters will not become clear for some time.

Professor David Maguire, vice-chancellor of the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway, told KoS he doesn't expect immediate changes to the way it operates. "Diversity and international reach are key strengths that our university shares with the wider Medway and Kent region," he said.

"Many EU nationals, and those from other parts of the globe, choose to work and to study with us at Medway, playing an integral part in the life of the region, and contributing to its economic success.

"Our research and enterprise benefits from EU membership too.

"I want to reassure university partners, staff and students that we do not expect the referendum to have any immediate impact on these arrangements. EU nationals are, and will remain, valued members of our community.

"Meanwhile, recruitment of EU students is going ahead as normal for next year.

Vice-chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, said: "The university is considering carefully the implications of the vote; some of which will not become clear for many months.

"However, we do know the result of the referendum will not lead to changes overnight. We continue to welcome applications from students in other EU countries, whose entitlement to come to study in the UK, and to access student finance remains unchanged.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, chief of the University of Kent, made her disappointment clear: "I am naturally disappointed at the result of the EU referendum.

"It reflects neither my personal views nor those of the university.

"I recognise, nonetheless, the democratic process that has led to this outcome. We are proud to be outward facing and international."

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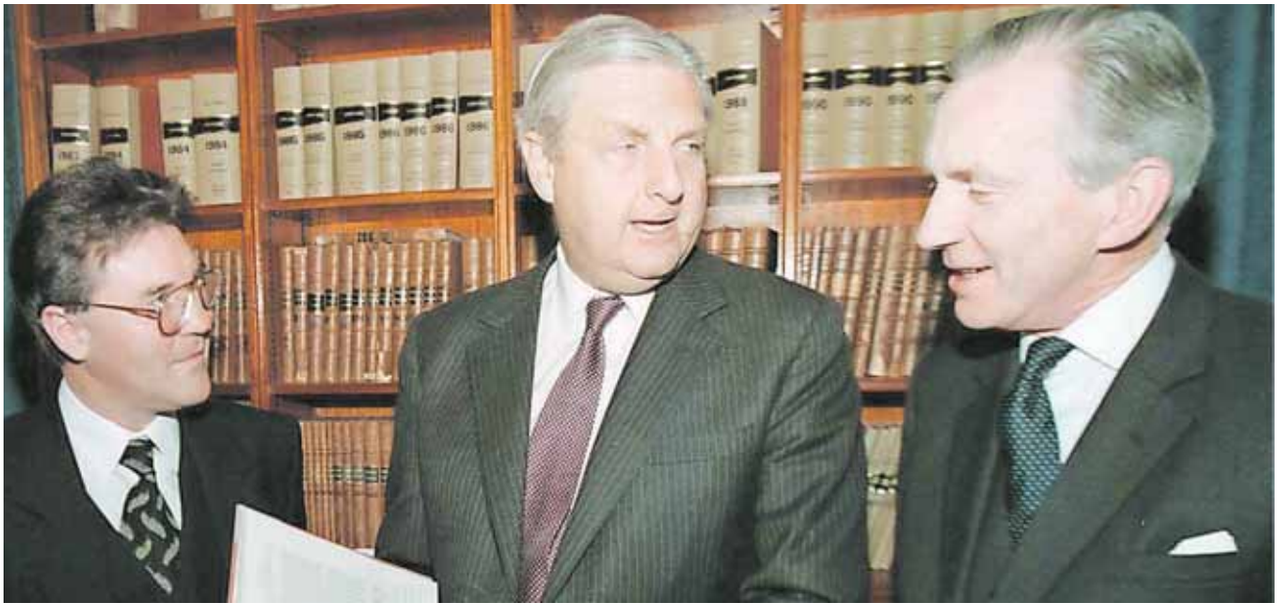

POWER: Lord Mayhew, above centre, and right, served for both Margaret Thatcher and John Major's governments before becoming a member of the House of Lords.

Tributes to the man who helped bring peace to Northern Ireland

The former Tunbridge Wells MP and cabinet minister Patrick Mayhew died last weekend at Kent home

AMID all the furore of the EU referendum, the nation lost one of its most senior and significant politicians last weekend, when news was announced of the death of Patrick Mayhew.

A long-time Tunbridge Wells MP, he served as a minister during both the Margaret Thatcher and John Major Conservative governments.

He died at his home in Kent aged 86.

We take look a look back at the man who served his constituency for over 20 years and ended up moving from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.

Lord Mayhew of Twysden, a man who pervaded magisterial authority, served as attorney-general and Northern Ireland secretary, during critical events for both posts, with the serenity and precision that would be expected from a lawyer of his immense ability.

He was a key figure in the December 1993, Downing Street Declaration, formulated by then prime minister John Major and then Irish taoiseach Albert Reynolds, which led to the IRA ceasefire the following September.

And his selectively leaked letter – as solicitor-general in January 1986 – setting out the background to the bitter Westland Helicopters dispute, led, through no fault of his own, to the resignations of both the then defence secretary, Michael Heseltine, and the trade and industry secretary, Leon Brittan.

It even, for a few dramatic hours, imperilled the prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, herself. But she survived.

Lord Mayhew would have regarded himself on the "liberal" wing of the Conservative Party, but he was not the kind of politician who could easily be labelled.

Party intrigue did not attract or concern him. He was a man who, with the discipline that goes with being a Queen's Counsel, concentrated on the job in hand to the exclusion of all else.

Patrick (Paddy) Barnabas Burke Mayhew was born on September 11 1929, and attended Tonbridge School and Balliol College, Oxford, where he was president of the union.

Before that, he did his National Service as a cavalry subaltern in the 4th/7th King's Dragoon Guards, to which he remained fondly attached throughout his life. He regularly wore the regimental tie.

He was also a sporting man in his youth and regularly hunted with the Beaufort.

He read for the Bar at the Middle Temple and was called in 1955. He took silk in 1972, still in his early 40s, before he entered the House of Commons in 1974 as MP for Tunbridge Wells, a seat he held for many years.

As soon as Mrs Thatcher came to power, in 1979, he was appointed employment under secretary, followed by a period as minister of state at the Home Office.

After the 1983 general election, he was appointed solicitor-general, under Sir Michael Havers who was then attorney-general. But during critical periods, Sir Patrick, as he had become, had to act as attorney-general while Sir Michael was ill.

During the Westland row, Heseltine was the sole cabinet member who wanted a European rescue package for the ailing helicopter company. The rest of the cabinet favoured an American package.

Heseltine wrote to the European consortium in terms which Mayhew warned him in a private and entirely dispassionate letter were seriously misleading.

But those parts of the letter which were highly damaging to Heseltine were leaked on January 6, 1986, to the Press Association by Colette Bowe, who was Leon Brittan's press officer.

The leak rocked the Government, and Mayhew, who had acted throughout with constitutional precision, furiously threatened to resign unless the perpetrators of the leak were punished.

When Sir Michael became lord chancellor, Mayhew became attorney-general and was involved in a series of contentious issues. These included demands for the extradition of terrorist suspects from the Irish Republic, and his decision not to prosecute in alleged shoot-to-kill cases.

This brought him unpopularity in Dublin and a reputation as a disdainful, high-handed and haughty man.

Mayhew was also involved in the Spycatcher affair, heading the government's campaign designed to block publication of the memoirs of former MI5 agent, Peter Wright.

However, surprisingly for a lawyer, the promotion – or rather change of job – that Mayhew longed for more than anything else was to become Northern Ireland secretary, a yearning granted him after the 1992 general election.

Throughout this period he remained typically unemotional and steadfast through some of the most vicious terrorist attacks the Province had seen in 25 years of the troubles.

And he was particularly outspoken about Dublin's continued territorial claim, in its constitution, on the six counties of the North.

At this stage it came to light that there had been secret contacts between the government and the IRA, and Mayhew published a lengthy dossier of the written exchanges.

But he worked assiduously with the British prime minister, with Mr Reynolds and with Dick Spring, the then Irish foreign minister, to achieve the Downing Street agreement of December, 1993.

There was a frustrating delay of some nine months while the IRA continually sought "clarification" of the document; a plea which Britain regarded not as a request for clarification but for renewed negotiations which Whitehall was not going to allow.

But finally the breakthrough came, with the IRA ceasefire and the subsequent lifting of the ban on the broadcast voices of IRA and other paramilitary sympathisers.

And although hard-line Unionists were deeply suspicious it appeared as though Sinn Fein was coming towards the legitimate constitutional fold of Ulster politics.

Mayhew was normally impeccably diplomatic, but there was one rare and uncharacteristic gaffe for which he had to apologise publicly and profusely.

He was with the prime minister in June, 1993, awaiting the start of a performance in Northern Ireland of Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor. When a reporter questioned him about a grenade attack that day in Belfast which had injured nearly 30 people, he quipped: "No, nobody dead. At the end of this opera, everybody's dead."

Mayhew said later that he much regretted any distress he had caused by this remark.

He was made a life peer in 1997 – the year in which he stood down as MP in Tunbridge Wells – being replaced by Archie Norman.

Communities secretary Greg Clark, who in turn replaced Mr Norman as MP for Tunbridge Wells, said the peer would be "deeply missed".

He said: "He was much loved and respected, will be deeply missed," he said.

Baroness Stowell of Beeston, leader of the House of Lords, added: "As the longest-serving secretary of state, he played a massive part in achieving peace in Northern Ireland. As a friend and colleague, Paddy Mayhew was supportive, a great source of wisdom, and always fun to be with. Condolences to his family."

In December 2012, Lord Mayhew was praised in the House of Commons by prime minister David Cameron as he made a statement on the Sir Desmond de Silva report into the nature and extent of state collusion in the murder of solicitor Pat Finucane in 1989.

Mr Cameron told the Commons that de Silva found the then attorney general Lord Mayhew deserved "significant credit for withstanding considerable political pressure designed to ensure" that some prosecutions did not go ahead.

The former cabinet minister is survived by his wife Jean Mayhew, their four sons and their families.

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Roy bows out after humiliating exit for England at Euro 2016

Hot on the heels of Brexit, the country bounced out of Europe again – but this time to the smallest nation ever to qualify, Iceland. For a man who started his career in Kent, it closed his latest chapter...

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FROM the non-league pitches of Kent to the world's greatest stages, Roy Hodgson's career has taken him to the very pinnacle of the professional game.

But on Monday night his time in charge of England came to an abrupt end – quitting after his team were humiliated by minnows Iceland in the second round of the Euro 2016 championship.

In truth, it was a result that while shocking, will have come as little surprise, given the team's performances in the tournament so far.

But for the man who once plied his trade for the likes of Tonbridge, Ashford, Maidstone and Gravesend & Northfleet (now Ebbsfleet) for many years during the late 1960s and early 1970s, quite where he goes now remains to be seen.

With experience managing overseas – he enjoyed successful stints in Sweden, Italy and Switzerland – the smart money will be on a job outside English football.

For now, though, he will be licking his wounds after a 2-1 defeat in Nice left England the butt of jokes around the footballing world.

Having arrived in France among the favourites following a 100 per cent qualifying record, falling at the last-16 hurdle to Iceland ranks alongside the 1950 World Cup exit to the United States in the embarrassment stakes.

Wayne Rooney's fourth-minute penalty proved to be a false dawn as Ragnar Sigurdsson and Kolbeinn Sigthorsson capitalised on errors to secure the smallest nation to ever grace a major tournament a well-deserved victory.

Iceland's historic win led Mr Hodgson to announce his resignation 20 minutes after the final whistle, the 68-year-old reading a statement at the post-match press conference.

"I'm extremely disappointed, of course, about tonight's result and ultimately our exit from the competition," he said while sitting alongside coaches Ray Lewington and Gary Neville, who are also departing.

"We haven't progressed as far as I thought we were capable of, and that's obviously not acceptable.

"I am actually proud of the work that my coaching staff and I have achieved in our time at the helm with England.

"The transition from a squad whose average was 30 to now being the youngest in the tournament is both remarkable and exciting for the future of English football.

"I would have loved to stay on for another two years, however I am pragmatic and know that we are in the results business.

"My contract was always up after the Euros so now is the time for someone else to oversee the progress of this young, hungry and extremely talented group of players.

"They've been fantastic and they have done everything that has been asked of them.

"When I arrived I was told that players didn't turn up to play for their country or that they pull out at the last minute. But I have not seen any of that.

"These players love to play for their country and their commitment has been unquestioned.

"It's been a fantastic journey these four years and it's one I'll look back on or remember with pride.

"Finally I'd like to thank you, the media, for the support that you've given me over the four years.

"I am sorry it's had to end this way with another exit from the tournament but these things happen and all I can do is wish everybody all the very best and hope that you will still be able to see an England team in a final of a major tournament fairly soon.

"We've been unable to deliver. Thank you very much."

Hodgson did not take any questions from reporters, only reading the statement it is believed was composed in the dressing room after the final whistle.

Before coming to speak to the media, Mr Hodgson and his two lieutenants spoke to the players, as well as telling FA chief executive Martin Glenn and technical director Dan Ashworth of their plans.

The country's governing body backed that decision in a statement released shortly after the press conference.

"Like the nation, we are disappointed to lose and that our run in this tournament has come to a premature end," the FA statement read.

"We had high hopes of progressing through to the latter stages of the competition and accept that we have not met our own expectations or those of the country.

"We back Roy Hodgson's decision to step down as England manager and will discuss next steps imminently."

RESIGNATION: England boss Roy Hodgson after the humiliating defeat to Iceland... 20 minutes later he resigned

FORM GUIDE OF RECENT ENGLAND MANAGERS

ROY HODGSON, 2012-2016
Games: 56. Wins: 33. Draws: 15. Losses: 8.

FABIO CAPELLO, 2007-2012
Games: 42. Wins: 28. Draws: 8. Losses: 6.

STEVE MCCLAREN, 2006-2007
Games: 18. Wins: 9. Draws: 4. Losses: 5.

SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON, 2001-2006
Games: 67. Wins: 40. Draws: 17. Losses: 10.

KEVIN KEEGAN, 1999-2000
Games: 18. Wins: 7. Draws: 7. Losses: 4.

GLENN HODDLE, 1996-1999
Games: 23. Wins: 14. Draws: 4. Losses: 5.

TERRY VENABLES, 1994-1996
Games: 20. Wins: 8. Draws: 11. Losses: 1.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, 1990-1993
Games: 29. Wins: 11. Draws: 11. Losses: 7.

SIR BOBBY ROBSON, 1982-1990
Games: 73. Wins: 31. Draws: 25. Losses: 17.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID...

THE SUN
Headline: Ice Wallies.
Story: Roy Hodgson quit in shame after the most embarrassing defeat in England's history.
Match report headline: Poundland 1 Iceland 2.

DAILY STAR
Headline: Cod Helps Us.
Story: England slumped to one of the most embarrassing defeats in their history last night.
Match report headline: Trawl Over!

DAILY MIRROR
Headline: Brrrexit Hodgson.
Story: Roy Hodgson resigned after one of the biggest humiliations in England's footballing history.
Match report headline: Ice, ice bye-bye.

DAILY EXPRESS
Headline: Clueless.
Story: England suffered their worst embarrassment for 66 years, crashing out of Euro 2016 to minnows Iceland.
Match report headline: Roy stuck in Ice Age.

DAILY MAIL
Headline: Who's next? Southgate tops the list!
Story: Gareth Southgate was installed as the bookmakers' favourite to replace Roy Hodgson, who quit last night after the humiliating 2-1 defeat by Iceland eliminated England from Euro 2016.
Match report headline: A load of cods wallop.

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Celebrating the Garden of England at the county show

Three-day extravaganza now boasts more attractions than ever for young visitors

By Simon Allin
simon.allin@archant.co.uk

LAST year, the build-up to the Kent County Show was dogged by fears of travel chaos on a scale previously unseen.

Operation Stack was in full force – snaking its way down the M20 and overloading the M2 as a consequence.

The annual celebration of our county's agricultural heritage was slap bang in the middle – perched on Detling Hill at the midway point of the two main transport arteries.

With some 70,000 people expected to head to the show's Kent Showground venue – the vast majority by car – blood pressure levels were beginning to rise at the Kent County Agricultural Society – organisers of the three-day extravaganza.

If that wasn't enough to contend with, the Leeds Castle Classical Concert was due to take place on the Saturday too, just a few short miles away, adding yet more traffic to roads already struggling to cope.

Yet, as if by magic, and with just days to go, the situation eased and the county took to the roads and flocked to the Kent County Show in their normal huge numbers.

This year, that chaotic summer of Stack is a fast fading memory. The only hope now is that the sun shines and what is traditionally one of the county's most memorable annual events.

"We are anticipating the same number of visitors as last year," explains Gill Collins, spokesman for the organising society. "That's around 70,000.

"We have looked at the long-term forecast and it seems favourable, and if Operation Stack is not lurking around we will have more visitors."

Running across the weekend of July 8-10, the evolution of the show mirrors the changing economies which underpin the county.

Once a showcase for farmers to display their produce and livestock, today the event is an all-singing, all-dancing smorgasbord featuring everything from traditional industries to cutting edge innovation – and everything between.

Do not make the mistake the Kent County Show is merely the chance to display bulging cauliflowers or the finest sheared sheep.

While agricultural endeavour continues to provide so much of the entertainment, there are more than 140 different activities, workshops, displays and competitions from a

TRAVEL AND TICKETS

IF there is one thing the Kent County Show has been synonymous with aside from a value-packed day out, it is surely the traffic getting in and out of the site.

The Kent County Showground is in Detling on the A249 – the main road which links junction seven of the M20 and junction five of the M2 motorways.

You may want to set off a little earlier if you're heading to the site as it can get busy at peak times. Likewise, if you're not attending the show, you may want to give the area a wide berth over the weekend.

For those using public transport, an Arriva shuttle bus will run to the show on all three days from Maidstone East Station and King Street opposite Boots in Maidstone.

A spokesman for the organisers said: "We were very concerned last year because Operation Stack had been in effect, but all of the authorities had a traffic management plan and we had an exceptional traffic plan, so it should be even easier.

"Our advice is to follow Highways England travel advice – we put on real time traffic updates – and listen to BBC Radio Kent.

"We have cameras and a traffic management team feeding back to Highways England.

"It involves all of the authorities, so we can react quite quickly if there is a road traffic accident, via social media and our website."

Entrance to the show costs £19.80 for adults, in advance, or £22 on the gate. Children are £5.40 in advance or £6 on the gate

A family ticket (full-day entrance for two adults and two children between the ages of five and 15) will cost £43.20 in advance or £48 when bought at the gate.

Children under five go free and parking is free.

Multi-day tickets cost £50 and are only available in advance.

Once inside, the vast majority of activities will be free, although a small number, such as the funfair, will involve an extra charge.

KOS AT SHOW

KENT on Sunday will be attending the show and we'd love to meet you.

We will be handing out special copies of the paper, along with our sister title, the monthly glossy magazine, Kent Life.

We will be at stand 413, close to the Astor Ring.

ATTRACTIONS: There's something for everyone at next weekend's Kent County Show - and this year there's an emphasis on things for young people to do

broad spectrum of industries.

This year, visitors will be able to see a range of new attractions, including stunt riding, pig racing and even a big screen for people who don't want to miss out on the summer's sporting events.

Meanwhile, old favourites such as the livestock shows, vintage vehicles and farming machinery will all be on display.

Organisers say an on-going emphasis this year has been put on making the show more accessible for younger visitors and hopefully swelling the number of families attending.

Mrs Collins explained: "We have tried to increase the number of free activities, particularly for our younger visitors, so there are free pony rides and all the displays are free.

"We have found over the last 11 years that catching children at a young age and getting them engaged starts a process that carries them through for a lot longer, so that is why we want to encourage young children to take part."

FOOD AND DRINK

A MAJOR thrust of the three-day event has become celebrating the county's home grown food and drink - and that will be clear to see next weekend.

A beer and cider festival has been added to the popular food and drink festival for this year's event, giving visitors the chance to meet some of the county's finest brewers and cider makers.

Show manager Lucy Hegarty said: "Kent is such an important county when it comes to beer and cider, and it is only right that visitors to our show can sample some of the best refreshments in the UK."

Meanwhile, the large food marquee, cheese and wine tent and the Produced in Kent area will all return.

At Produced in Kent, artisan producers, including cheese makers, meat producers and makers of homemade jams and chutneys will be on hand to talk about where they source ingredients and how they make their products.

The National Cherry and Soft Food Show, possibly the only one of its kind in the world, will feature public presentations by the best growers in the country.

Continued on page 34

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Kent County Show
8th, 9th, 10th July

A Right Royal Visit for the 2016 Kent County Show

The Kent County Show are delighted that their Patron, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG will be attending the Show on Friday 8th July. The Duke of Kent became Patron of the Kent County Agricultural Society in 1975 and has been a firm supporter over the decades, attending the Show on numerous occasions.

The Duke of Kent will be met by Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle and will be accompanied on a tour of the livestock and farming areas of the Show, including the Jacob Sheep Society and Kent Young Farmers. The Duke of Kent will also visit a number of organisations that are of interest to him; Campaign to Protect Rural England, Dogs Trust and Guide Dogs.

The official tour will then go to the Woodland Area to visit Kent Scouts in his capacity of President of the Scout Association and also meet members of the Woodland Trust. HRH The Duke of Kent will be guest of honour at the President's Lunch sponsored by Brachers LLP and Savills. It is Lord Colgrain's first Show accompanying the Duke on a tour since he became Society President in 2015.

Europe will be on the Agenda for Farmers

Another important guest, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan will also be attending the 87th Kent County Show on Friday 8 July.

He will visit the NFU and CLA Stand to deliver a Keynote Speech following the result of the EU Referendum on 23rd June. He will then be joined by CLA Deputy President Tim Breitmeyer and NFU President Meurig Raymond for a question and answer session from invited members of the two large rural organisations. Phil Hogan will then present awards for contribution to conservation and woodland management in the County.

The European Commissioner will be escorted to the Kent Young Farmers Area to meet Chairman, Joe McAuley and the Kent County Show livestock area to be introduced to Terry Whitehead, Chief Livestock Steward. Phil Hogan will be the Guest Speaker for the President's Lunch.

Meet the Animals

The animals at the Kent County Show always take centre stage and this year is no exception. Eve Hart, a former Kent Young Farmer and Kent Show Chair, has encouraged sheep

farmers to enter the many different classes in the Sheep section. Due to its popularity the area has been expanded with the aged ewe classes seeing 35 entries in its inaugural year. The Show has received over 400 sheep entries this year, the highest number of sheep for over 10 years.

Farriers and Blacksmiths - explained

The work of a farrier in Britain goes back many centuries and its roots can be found in the history books for almost as long as man's link with horses.

Shoeing a horse involves several stages, old shoes need to be first removed with pincers, and then the hoof is trimmed to the proper length using nippers.

The farrier then trims the sole and frog (a part of the hoof that is on the underside) with a hoof knife. A rasp is used to finish trimming and smoothing the hoof before the new shoe is put on.

The Shoeing Competition takes place at the specially built forge on the Showground. During the three days the forge has a number of different competitions that visitors are able to watch. There are between 50 and 60 competitors that compete over the three days.

There is also a competition for Blacksmiths who can enter and make an item from a single rasp. Whilst both Farriers and Blacksmiths work in iron and steel only a fully qualified farrier is able to shoe a horse. Visitors can also visit Kaos Blacksmith who will have a stand in the Woodland Area and will be demonstrating the skills involved in forging metal.

Bolddog Lings Freestyle Motocross (FMX) Display Team

Performing on all three days, Honda's official and the UK's number one motorcycle display team, the Bolddog Lings team base their show around the world's largest and most sophisticated mobile landing system. The show features the UK's top ranked freestyle motocross riders, incorporating the latest heart stopping tricks as usually only seen on TV.

Between displays the public are invited to the interactive stand where they can get a closer look at the bikes and meet the riders. This Team will not be beat on entertainment and strive to ensure that the crowds are left mind blown and thoroughly entertained.

The Bolddog FMX team shot to fame in 2014 when they were finalists on 'Britain's got Talent'. The team had an amazing audition but just missed out on the grand final. On the show, head judge Simon Cowell said: "In terms of watching something and loving it, it was one of the most incredible things we have had on the show," Simon also noted that the group's willingness to risk everything with dangerous stunts was admirable.

Working Horses, one the Show favourites

Once again visitors to the Kent County Show will be able to see working horses in Murrain Wood. These magnificent working horses are testament to the traditional way we used to manage our woodland and forest areas. Whilst mechanisation has transformed the way we manage our wooded areas, there is still merit in using horse-power. Natural Traction will have a team of horses doing demonstrations on all three days and is run by Frankie Woodgate.

The vital role that horses play as a method of timber extraction is now recognised within the woodland and forestry sector. Horses provide a means of timber extraction that minimises the damage to regeneration.

Fun, Fun, Fun for Children

This year at the Show there will be plenty of free activities for children. Coming to a family event is important for youngsters and organisers of the Kent County Show want them to have a really magical time and learn about farming, the countryside and animals. They have added a number of activities and displays for young visitors to get involved in; ranging from Welly Wanging to free pony rides and Pig Racing to Birds of Prey.

A children's favourite, Tractor Ted will on hand in its own area where children will be able to play on the Tractor Ted Bouncy Castle, operate Digger Den, take part in Welly Wanging, complete a giant puzzle and visit their merchandise shop.

In the Why Farming Matters in Kent Area, children will be able to milk a lifesize dairy cow, learn about milk, make butter, drive miniature tractors and find out more about a number of seeds and what they grow into.

Children will love watching the Pig Racing, the Sheep Show, Birds of Prey and of course, the Dog and Duck Show.

The later is an exciting display in which the intelligence of the sheep dog is matched only by the cuteness of the ducks.

Find out more

The online ticket system is now open to purchase discounted tickets for the 2016 Show. A family ticket will cost £43.20 in advance or £48 when bought at the gate. The family ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children aged between 5 and 15 a full day entrance. Children under 5 go free and parking is free. Adult tickets are £19.80 in advance and £22 on the gate, a child ticket is £5.40 in advance and £6 on the gate.

The Kent County Show starts at 8am and stays open until 6pm although there is no rush to leave as some of the food stands stay open later. The Show has over 140 different activities, workshops, displays and competitions which run throughout the day and are often repeated daily.

Kent County Show
8,9,10 July 2016
www.kentshowground.co.uk

/kentcountyshow

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Continued from page 31

One of the highlights will be Britain's Got Talent stars The Bolddog Lings Freestyle Motocross Display Team, who will perform on all three days, executing aerial stunts and stunt riding on the latest Honda motorcycles.

The team uses the largest freestyle motorcross landing ramp in the world, enabling riders to jump gaps of over 75ft.

Stuntman Andy Godbold worked as Daniel Craig's stunt double in James Bond movie Skyfall, and has also appeared in Captain America, War Horse and Harry Potter.

The county show coincides with a number of high-profile sporting events this year, so the organisers have arranged a 'pop-up sports festival' – a big screen showing a selection of sport, including the Wimbledon finals and the Formula 1 British Grand Prix.

In another example of the traditional meeting the modern, digitally savvy visitors will be able to use a specially designed app to plan their itinerary.

"We have nearly 9,000 followers on Twitter, so it is important that we engage with them as well as the more traditional visitors," Mrs Collins explained.

Despite these contemporary twists, agriculture remains at the heart of the Kent County Show, and livestock competitions will be held over the three days.

The National Farmers' Union's Kent county delegate, Kevin Attwood, told KoS the event remains important for the agricultural sector – and particularly for its younger members.

"It is judged in terms of the stuff they produce and it adds credibility to their marketing and produce," he explained.

"It is all a package and there are a number of strands to it. It is a public-facing event and the public come along and are always interested. It is a package for a public that doesn't see all of those strands.

"The Produced in Kent display features small producers that have moved up the value chain. It is very much a shop window to the public, and it is quite important.

"You didn't see that six or seven years ago – it is a growth area within the show and within the industry in Kent.

"Wine-making is a huge growth area in Kent. There is a lot of money in it – very much in the sparkling whites."

Kent Young Farmers' clubs will compete for trophies and awards, while another display, Why Farming Matters, will enable visitors to learn more about food and agriculture.

Mr Attwood added: "The young farmers' sector is crucial to the health of the industry. We are an industry that needs young people, so anything we do to promote an industry educational aspect is important.

"It is an outstanding part of the show and well worth people coming along just to look with their children and grandchildren."

A member of the royal family traditionally visits the show, and this year the Duke of Kent will attend on its opening Friday.

He will be accompanied on a tour of the livestock and farming areas of the show before visiting organisations that he supports, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Dogs Trust.

The Duke will then be escorted to the Kent County Agricultural Society drinks reception to watch the Spitfire display from the members' lawn, where he will be presented to members of the society and invited guests.

A key part of the show's success, as ever, will be the weather.

Memories of the 2012 event remain in the minds of many. Like many events across the country, it was dogged by horrendous rains which turned many of the car parks into quagmires that left many visitors stranded.

It got so bad that for the first time since 1964, it had to be temporarily closed to prevent further chaos.

But the negative headlines hammered home the need for lessons to be learned, and ever since then considerable investment has been made to ensure that even if the heavens open, the car parks will hold strong.

The weather has certainly been unpredictable so far this year, but the organisers insist they are prepared for the worst Mother Nature can throw at them.

Mrs Collins said: "As a result of the last few years, when the temperatures have soared, we have put in other contingency plans. We have extra water on site and St John's Ambulance will be there to deal with any issues around sunstroke.

"We will have far more temporary roadways in case of rain. We look at the forecast on Wednesday and decide which extra provisions we will make.

"I think the point of the Kent County Show is there is something for everyone, whether you are young or old. It really does enhance the cause of Kent and what the rural sector has to offer.

"Really it is about celebrating the Garden of England. And seeing some really cute animals. And eating some really good food."

The 2016 Kent County Show will be held between Friday, July 8 and Sunday, July 10.

It will be open from 8am to 6pm on each day.

■ For full details and tickets for this year's show, visit www.kentshowground.co.uk.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

AS any family knows, if you can deliver a great day out for children, the chances are you'll come again next time – and tell your friends.

So this year a number of activities have been introduced to keep youngsters entertained.

TV favourite Peppa Pig, arguably the most successful farm animal in history, will be in attendance along with brother George, meeting as many youngsters as possible.

Tractor Ted, another favourite, will have his own area where youngsters will be able to play on the Tractor Ted bouncy castle, operate Digger Den, take part in Welly Wanging, complete a giant puzzle and visit the merchandise shop.

Meanwhile, living statues The Hedge Men will be lurking around the showground looking to surprise unsuspecting visitors.

Free pony rides will be available for youngsters between 10am and 4pm courtesy of Pony Parties Kent, with riding hats provided.

There will also be a traditional funfair harkening back to the early days of the show.

HERITAGE

THE Spirit of Kent Spitfire will make a return to this year's show, performing a display on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In the heritage section, the vintage vehicles display will celebrate the county's historical transport connections, featuring motorcycles, buses, pre and post-war cars, tractors, steam engines, models and steam vehicles.

Vehicle parades start at 10am and continue until 4.30pm each day, with experts on hand to talk about history and offer advice.

The Royal British Legion Band and Corps Of Drums Romford will entertain visitors on Saturday and Sunday.

They were the first ever youth band to appear at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and have won a number of awards, including Concert Band Champions at the 2006 British Youth Band Association's contest.

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

HOW can this not be one of the big success stories of this year's show? This year will see the debut of Joseph's Amazing Racing Pigs – six rare breed animals who will race each other down a track and over hurdles in their rush to reach a food bucket.

A range of live music and entertainment will also be on offer this year, including folk singers and Morris dancers.

Local musician Fred Clarke, an acoustic singer-songwriter from Maidstone, is to perform on all three days.

He has played more than 400 gigs during the past seven years and has released four albums since his debut, Open Road, in 2009.

The Biggin Hillbilles will perform bluegrass, country, folk, Irish favourites, jazz standards, and hits from the Fifties and Sixties on Sunday.

Female vocal group The Damsels, a group made up of professional performers with West End and international credentials, will be playing on Saturday.

Morris dancing has long been associated with Kent due to its hop-growing traditions, and dancers will be performing on all three days.

There will also be music in the antique and vintage tent.

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** Offer ends August 31st, cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

STRIKING: Viking Bay

Campaign captures county's beauty

A collection of photographs capturing the 'unique identity' of our beautiful home county forms the basis of an advertising campaign launched across London this week to drive up visitor numbers...

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A STUNNING selection of photographs taken from across the county are forming the backbone of a major new advertising campaign by tourism champions Visit Kent.

The images were unveiled across London this week – with posters at underground and overground stations, plus on a variety of digital channels.

It is hoped the powerful photographs – which include scenes of Hever Castle, Dover Castle, Dreamland, Viking Bay, Ramsgate, Margate and Canterbury – will help drive thousands of extra visitors.

It follows from success in previous years of raising awareness of the county's tourism offering during the summer months to a London audience.

Now in its sixth year, the award-winning 'Kent Contemporary' advertising campaign has been developed in partnership with M&C Saatchi, AKA Media, and Southeastern.

HISTORIC: This brooding picture of Hever Castle is part of the new campaign

ALL PICTURES: Visit Kent

Visit Kent marketing director Jennifer Yard said: "The 2016 campaign mixes existing images with dramatic news ones and introduces a fresh new tone of voice in the lead slogans that reflects Kent's unique identity – bright, witty, confident and relatable.

"We have worked closely with our destinations and attractions, M&C Saatchi and our partners at Southeastern to ensure the public are given dazzling images but also clear calls to action with links to the Visit Kent website and Southeastern's rail services."

The campaign will be appear on 164 poster sites throughout London underground and overground stations, transvision screens at London Victoria station and targeted digital adverts across various websites including TripAdvisor, National Rail, and TFL websites.

The campaign will also be supported by dedicated social media campaigns across Visit Kent and partners' channels, including a summer Instagram competition encouraging people to share their own images showing the 'colours of Kent', and a big giveaway in partnership with Shepherd Neame.

ATMOSPHERIC: Dreamland at Margate and The Zeatland Arms at Deal

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READY: Lucy O'Byrne will front the production when it heads into theatres in Dartford and Canterbury later this year

Tears of joy after The Voice star's Sound of Music role

How do you solve a problem like Maria? Simple, hire top talent for touring show

STAR of the latest touring production of the Sound of Music says she wept tears of joy when producers gave her the lead role of Maria.

The latest incarnation of the ever enduring musical emerges over the hillside this summer for shows at both Dartford's Orchard Theatre and the Marlowe at Canterbury.

Now Lucy O'Byrne, who follows in the footsteps of Julie Andrews as Maria, says the chance to tour the production is a dream come true.

The star, who shot to fame by appearing on BBC talent show The Voice in 2015, explained: "When they told me I had the role it was amazing.

"I'm not going to lie, I did cry a little bit. When I moved in to my current house in London, my housemate had already been living here, and all around the house she has two or three framed pictures of Julie Andrews and one of them was the original Sound of Music poster, so when I got the news we both had a little bit of a moment in the kitchen.

"I loved the film so I already knew all the songs, although I did have to learn Lonely Goatherd for the auditions because although I know it, I'd never learned to yodel before, so that was quite tough. I think my yodelling skills are getting there, I

"I knew all the other songs, they're so famous, and for someone who grew up in musical theatre, I grew up watching it."

She's by far from the first performer to make the leap from the finals of a TV talent show, to the stages of the UK.

Producer Bill Kenwright has already made stars of Danielle Hope (who won BBC's Over The Rainbow), Lloyd Daniels, Rachel Adedeji (both were on the X Factor) who have all starred in his productions, and Joe McElderry (2009's X Factor winner) stars as Joseph in a production also currently on the circuit.

"So many people have done so well from all of those shows," Dublin star O'Byrne explains. "Look at Jessie Buckley, another Irish girl who was runner-up on I'd Do Anything (the 2008 BBC show searching for an unknown actress to star as Nancy in the West End revival of Oliver!). She was in the West End last year starring opposite Jude Law. So many people have come out of those shows and had success. Lee Mead (he won Any Dream Will Do, the nationwide search for an unknown to play Joseph in a West End revival of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat), is another good example, he had great success.

"On The Voice, every round that we went into, we were told, 'if you don't get through this week, what are you going to do? Have you promoted yourself enough on social media, how are you going to use your clips from here to promote your own career?'. It was very much a platform for contestants; the producers and the team were eager to tell us that no matter how far we got, we would be able to use this experience as a stepping stone into the industry and to use it all to our advantage, in any way you can."

The Sound of Music will be at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury from July 25-30 and then the Orchard Theatre in Dartford from September 27 to October 1. Tickets are on sale now.

» Email us details of your event to:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476

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holidays

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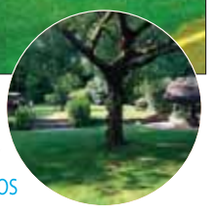


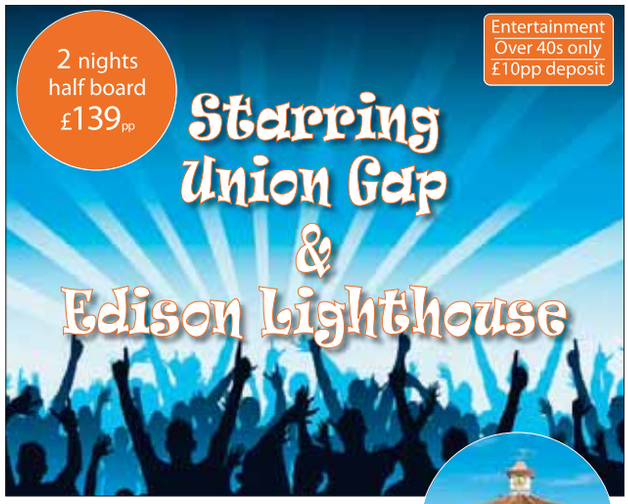
60s Party Break

Thatcher's Hotel, Guildford, Surrey

Friday 28 Oct, 4 Nov, 2016 & 6 Jan, 2017 - Quote: TG-KOS

Enjoy live entertainment from a 60s tribute act both nights at the Thatcher's Hotel in the heart of the Surrey countryside just a short drive from Guildford. There are plenty of local attractions to explore during the day including Guildford Cathedral, The Hogs Back Brewery and Polesden Lacey. Further afield, Portsmouth with its Gunwharf Quays outlet shopping village and Spinnaker Tower is about an hour's drive away.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free Parking



60s Party Break

4-Star Hinckley Island Hotel, Leics

Friday, 5 August, 2016 - Quote HK8-KOS

Join us for a private party break featuring 60s bands Union Gap and Edison Lighthouse at the 4-star Hinckley Island Hotel nestled in the heart of Leicestershire near Nuneaton and Market Bosworth. Relax in the hotel's indoor pool and fitness suite, the Triumph Sports Bar and Piazza Lounge Bar, or venture out to nearby attractions, before dinner and a fun-packed evening both nights.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Free use of leisure facilities • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free Parking

Back to the 60s

Premium Carry on New Year Party
Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Friday, 6 January, 2017 - Quote: NY1-2-KOS

Join us for a private party that extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane - for over 40s only - at Warner Bembridge, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party, lots of nostalgic fun and Free Drinks every night. We've lined up a super entertainment programme featuring tributes to the Beatles, the Stylistics and Tom Jones plus the ever-popular team pantomime.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - room in main hotel upgrades available • Return car ferry & Free Parking

Madeira Carnival

By Air

22 February, 2017 - Quote: MC2-KOS

The Carnival of Madeira is known as one of the best in Europe. There are two main parades - the allegoric parade features thousands of participants in magnificent colourful costumes dancing to electrifying Samba music through the streets of the capital, Funchal. The second, called Trapalhao, features carnival goers in daring costumes and local caricatures. Included excursions take in the best of the island.

INCLUDED: Return flights Gatwick to Funchal with luggage • 7 nights stay at a 4-star hotel in Funchal • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners from the buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch and dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Entertainment on 3 evenings • 2 half days and 1 full-day excursion • Seating for the carnival • Airport/hotel transfers in Madeira • Services of our representative in resort

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Garden where award winners from Chelsea cut their teeth

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

LURKING in west Kent is a garden that is open to the public that few have discovered.

And it is tended by a team who already can admire a host of some of the horticultural world's most prized awards dazzling from their mantlepieces.

Broadview Gardens lurks behind the Broadview Garden Centre, part of the sprawling and ever expanding Hadlow College complex.

Set over eight acres, they offer something of a sensory treat.

The team behind the gardens are college students who have picked up prestigious awards at both the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

It addition, the college won the RHS Chelsea floristry college of the year award in 2015.

Martin Bradshaw is manager of the garden centre next door.

He explains: "As part of the college, it provides hands on experience for our students, who not only learn from working in the gardens and displaying their work, but also provide a wonderful place for visitors to enjoy – which is free. This gives the students lifelong practical learning and skills for their future careers."

PICTURESQUE: Beautiful blooms lurking behind Hadlow garden centre

Around each corner lurks another specially designed area.

There's the Grasses Garden, Fountain Garden and Oriental Garden. And, open from May to October, a garden in a subtropical style.

In addition, there's the Italian Garden and the Dry Garden.

Broadview also holds the national collection of hellebores and the national collection of Japanese anemones.

Adds a spokesman: "In addition to this, each year, from September to May, students build new gardens on themes from domestic gardens, show gardens to public landscape styles using an extensive variety of plants and materials in common and innovative ways."

In addition, there's a children's play area, and spaces for picnics.

Refreshments are available from the neighbouring Broadview Garden Centre.

Guided tours are available to coach parties and large tour groups on request and are conducted by the head or deputy head gardener.

Get ready for bOing! 2016

INTERNATIONAL family festival bOing! takes place at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury in August.

The two-day event includes theatre, dance, music and film and runs from August 27-28.

Walled Garden big names

GO West, Nik Kershaw, Steve Harley, the Tom Robinson band and Marc Almond will all be appearing at the Walled Garden Music Festival near Tunbridge Wells later this month.

They'll be performing at Brightling Park, near Robertsbridge, as part of the three-day event that runs from Friday, July 15 to July 17.

Artist opens exhibition

CRITICALLY acclaimed artist Caroline Shotton made a guest appearance at Castle Galleries in Bluewater this Saturday to launch an exhibition of her work. Limited signed editions will be avaialble.

Get a flavour of Venice

A GLITTERING opera extravaganza comes to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on July 10.

Performed by the European Baroque Ensemble, the show features leading opera singers performing arias from the grand operas such as Aïda and Madam Butterfly.

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Camping, Pre-pitched camping & Glamping available. Free parking.

Craft & music stalls, workshops, Daleks & sci-fi characters, great bars & food stalls, 1940's experience, Irish dancers, Classic Cars, Kidzone, archery, well-being area, clean and plentiful toilets and much more. Beers from local brewers Shepherd Neame and Canterbury Ales @ £3.50 a pint, and award winning cider from Kentish Pip

Advance Ticket Price: 3 DAYS **£96** * Day tickets from **£32** * **GROUP and FAMILY TICKETS AVAILABLE**

Ticket hotline 0844 884 2920 or online at

www.anewdayfestival.com

Midge Ure at Gulbenkian

MIDGE Ure will be returning to Canterbury later this year - blending hits from across a career which included time as frontman of Ultravox and solo success.

He plays the Gulbenkian on October 30.

Goldie Looking sell-out

A GIG by Welsh rappers Goldie Looking Chain scheduled for Ramsgate later this month has already sold out.

The group will play Ramsgate Music Hall on July 29.

GLC are best known for their hit Guns Don't Kill People, Rappers Do.

Rock choirs combined

ROCK choirs from Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Orpington will be performing shows at the Hever Festival this summer.

They'll be singing on July 14, 23 and 24.

Bowie tribute at Create

THE countdown is on for this year's free Create Music Festival in Ashford's Victoria Park.

Last year headlined by Adam Ant, this year the top billing goes to David Live - a tribute show to the late, great, David Bowie. The event runs from 11.30am to 9pm on Saturday, July 23, and features live music, theatre and food.

Are you ready to rock? Adams all set for show

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TICKETS are flying out of the door to watch Canadian rocker Bryan Adams as he prepares for his first ever show in the county next month.

The star will perform at the Spitfire Ground in Canterbury - home of Kent County Cricket Club - in August as part of his Get Up tour.

He's playing a string of shows across the UK and Ireland throughout the month - taking a break from an extensive of the US and Canada.

Earlier this year he was playing to sold out arenas across the UK - among them a night at the O2 Arena. Touring to promote his Get Up album, the set list so far is one to keep old and new fans alike happy, as he romps through new material plus all his biggest hits.

Songs performed so far include the classics Run To You, Somebody, Summer of '69, (Everything I Do) I Do It For You, Can't Stop This Thing We Started, Heaven and It's Only Love.

The show comes hot on the heels of the successful Simply Red show at the ground last month (main picture, courtesy of Andy Archer). A spokesman for the club said: "Tickets have been selling really well. There's a real appetite to see him and we're confident the show will be a great night.

"We are delighted to be welcoming him to the ground.

"We are building a reputation for attracting best-selling artists like Elton John and Madness so Bryan Adams continues that tradition."

Adams shot to fame in 1983 with the album Cuts Like A Knife and followed that up with the hugely successful Reckless which spawned a host of global hits.

In 1991 he delivered perhaps his best known song when (Everything I Do) I Do It For You topped the UK charts for a remarkable 16 weeks. The song came from the soundtrack of the Kevin Costner movie Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.

The show i takes place on Saturday, August 13. Tickets cost between £49.50 and £66.

RECKLESS: Bryan Adams will play his first ever Kent show

ROCK: Expect to hear a string of global hits during the gig

Harry Potter is back, but is the magic still there?

Chris Britcher casts his critical eye over the latest dollop of Harry Potter at London's Palace Theatre

THERE is an undoubted difficulty in writing a review of a play in which it is so vital the integrity of the storyline is not revealed in advance, for fear of spoiling the enjoyment of anyone with plans to see it.

Because Harry Potter and The Cursed Child, currently undergoing a long-running series of preview performances prior to its official opening at the end of July, is like being exposed to a top secret.

Instead of an Official Secrets Act document to sign, instead you get a badge telling you to 'keep the secrets' and poster upon poster around the theatre telling you to button your lip.

After years of resisting, author JK Rowling has returned to the world of Hogwarts, Hogsmeade and Harry himself for the eighth instalment of the boy wizard.

But, unlike all previous episodes which were carefully crafted books, this is a stage production. And the book which accompanies it (due for release at the end of July) will be the script rather than anything more elaborate.

It seems somewhat inevitable the Cursed Child will at some point emerge in a big screen version, but right now it would seem churlish to expect it anytime soon when the demand for tickets to the Palace Theatre is quite so intense. It's currently sold out until next, gulp, June.

So what can I tell you about it that doesn't trigger an angry JK Rowling turning up on my doorstep keen to stick a wand where the magical sun doesn't shine? Well, the truth is probably not a lot.

PACKED: Tickets are sold out until June of 2017 for theatre production

Yes, it's now 19 years since our heroes left Hogwarts, so the three main protagonists are indeed hurtling towards 40 and yes, the thrust of the storyline follows their off-spring. But this is still very much a Harry Potter tale. And it gives more than a passing nod to the tales with which we are all so familiar. Fans will not be disappointed.

As a theatrical production there are some simply breathtaking moments and some of the visual effects will have you pondering just how on earth they are achieved. To coin a cliché, it is a little magical.

The storyline too powers along at a decent rate and for a production where many will see back to back performances (that's more than five hours in your seat), the time rather flies.

But for all of JK Rowling's desire for youngsters to see this in the theatre - on a Saturday to see both parts the audience was short on children and heavy on the white middle classes - the cost and just the difficulty in obtaining a ticket is unlikely to make that dream a reality any time soon.

Still, you can't really blame her for trying and certainly this is an interesting addition to the Harry Potter timeline which so many fans are clamouring for.

■ Harry Potter & The Cursed Child is at the Palace Theatre, London.

Theatre scoops awards

POPULAR theatre in Gravesend, The Woodville, emerged with two prizes after the Kent Digital Awards.

It picked up bronze awards in both the lifestyle and culture and sports and entertainment strategies at the event staged at Brands Hatch.

Theatre manager Mandy Hare said: ''We aim to provide the best interactive experience for our users with easy navigation.''

Wonderville's debut

WITH Lounge on the Farm still on a sabbatical, Canterbury festival-goers can soak up the atmosphere instead this year as newcomer Wonderville takes place in nearby Rhodes Minnis this summer.

The event, described as an intimate boutique festival, takes place on July 30 at Jubilee Farm and promising a blend of touring bands and the best local talent, plus an array of family-friendly food and drink.

Jason Donovan's date

JASON Donovan has confirmed a date in Margate as part of his greatest hits tour.

The actor, musical theatre star and pop sensation will play at Margate Winter Gardens on December 18.

The date will celebrate his huge-selling Ten Good Reasons album from 1989 which spawned the hits Too Many Broken Hearts and Sealed With a Kiss and mark one of the last shows in his UK tour.

Yes it's Rick Wakeman

YES keyboard player Rick Wakeman performs at Sevenoaks School this evening (Sunday).

The show in the Pamoja Hall has already sold out but fans keen to attend are advised to check for any returns.

The musician, who is a fellow of the Royal College of Music, is also well known for his TV presenting work, including stints on BBC consumer show Watchdog.

TREASURES from TRASH

Saturday 9 July to Saturday 10 September

Upcycling and recycling from around the world, showing personal objects such as toys, ornaments and accessories, made from many different salvaged materials.

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Museum Late

Thursday 28 July

18:00 - 21:00

Ab Fab!

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Talk/tour at 18:30, repeated at 19:30 if full. **FREE**

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www.maidstonemuseum.org

Museum Opening Times

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 - 17:00

Sunday 12:00 - 16:00

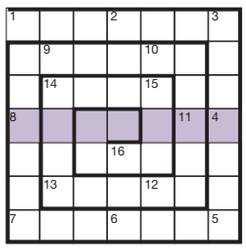
Monday Closed

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

PUZZLES

PUZZLES EXTRA

Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Slightly open
2. Harvest
3. Nosegay
4. Egg part
5. Type
6. Expensive
7. American ostrich
8. Land measure
9. Catch sight of
10. Period of time
11. Status
12. Flying toy
13. Deserve
14. Bird's home
15. Rend
16. Affluent

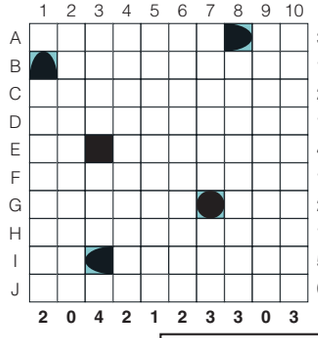
Keyword clue: An Olympic sport

Solutions

1 Ajar; 2 Reap; 3 Posy; 4 Yolk; 5 Kind; 6 Dear; 7 Rhea; 8 Acre; 9 Espy; 10 Year; 11 Rank; 12 Kite; 13 Earn; 14 Nest; 15 Tear; 16 Rich. **Keyword:** Archery

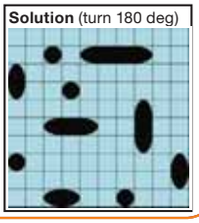
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.



THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine

Solution (turn 180 deg)



DOUBLE CROSSWORD

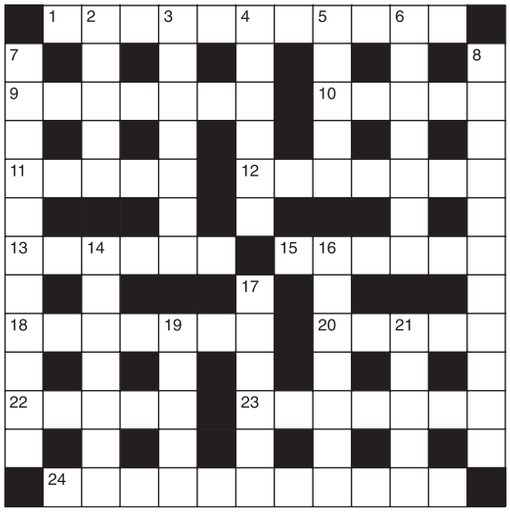
Cryptic

Across

1. How the work rota brings enchantment? (5,2,4)
9. Document showing the mapmaker's rights? (7)
10. It's funny to see dunderhead go round and round (5)
11. Presumably he will have to draw the line somewhere (5)
12. An opening for the unobserved observer? (7)
13. Aimless drawing of part of a crow? (6)
15. Suit for diggers? (6)
18. To agree completely (7)
20. This animal has some prestige, really (5)
22. Tan if lost or indistinct (5)
23. Work on a field of interest, like a semi-precious stone (7)
24. An aid for the light sleeper? (7,4)

Down

2. Very small type found in shellfish (5)
3. All tear out from the side (7)
4. There's no getting up to hurry attack (6)
5. Within 24 hours, theologian will become a father (5)
6. Doubly leaders of the world in times past (7)
7. Very afraid if Fred's cats get out (6,5)
8. The quick road to journalism? (5,6)
14. Not in the team back in the pavilion (7)
16. Hidden difficulty caused by mine subsidence (7)
17. Using the highway, but clearly not a motorway (2,4)
19. This plant means much to you and me (5)
21. Following the brothers in a fairy-tale career? (5)



Quick

Across

1. Reckoning (11)
9. Cigar (7)
10. Nick (5)
11. Catch (5)
12. Studio (7)
13. Sullen (6)
15. Concur (6)
18. Sewing aid (7)
20. Foreign (5)
22. Overcome (5)
23. Simple (7)
24. Too early (11)

Down

2. Expert (5)
3. Apparel (7)
4. Deadly (6)
5. Taut (5)
6. External (7)
7. Applause (11)
8. Dryness (11)
14. Swagger (7)
16. Strew (7)
17. Leave (6)
19. Blossom (5)
21. Perfect (5)

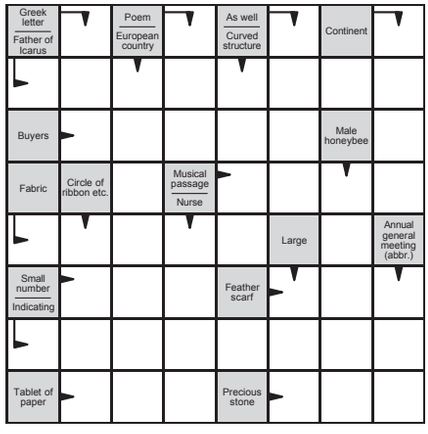
Scribble pad

Solutions

Cryptic
Across: 1 Spell of duty; 9 Charter; 10 Droll; 11 Ruler; 12 Spyhole; 13 Doodle; 15 Spades; 18 Totally; 20 Tiger; 22 Faint; 23 Opaline; 24 Bedside lamp. Down: 2 Pearl; 3 Lateral; 4 Onrush; 5 Daddy; 6 Twofold; 7 Scared stiff; 8 Fleet Street; 14 Outside; 16 Pitfall; 17 By road; 19 Lotus; 21 Grimm.

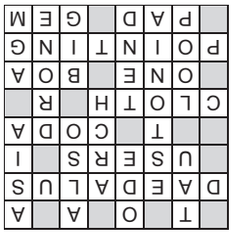
Quick
Across: 1 Calculation; 9 Cheroot; 10 Notch; 11 Latch; 12 Atelier; 13 Morose; 15 Assent; 18 Thimble; 20 Alien; 22 Outdo; 23 Artless; 24 Prematurely. Down: 2 Adept; 3 Clothes; 4 Lethal; 5 Tense; 6 Outside; 7 Acclamation; 8 Thirstiness; 14 Roister; 16 Scatter; 17 Depart; 19 Bloom; 21 Ideal.

ARROWWORD

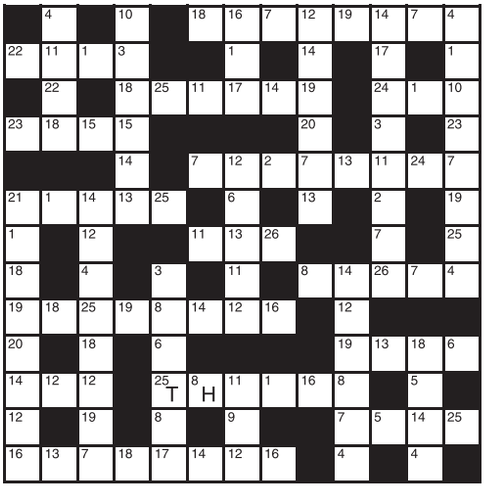


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution



CODEWORD



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

Solution

SUDOKU

Hard

	5						3	
9				8				1
		7	9		6	8		
		2	4		9	5		
		1	3		8	9		
		9	1		4	3		
8				5				2
	4						7	

Easy

		1		7	6	8		
	6		8	1		5		9
	3					7		
				5		9		3
6	5				8		1	7
8		9						
		6					9	
1		7		6	2			5
		5	3	8		6		

Solutions

Hard

6	5	8	4	1	7	3	9	
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	2	1
1	2	7	9	3	6	8	5	4
7	8	2	4	1	9	5	6	3
4	9	3	6	7	5	2	1	8
5	6	1	3	2	8	9	4	7
2	7	9	1	6	4	3	8	5
8	1	6	7	5	3	4	9	2
3	4	5	8	9	2	1	7	6

Easy

2	9	1	5	7	6	8	3	4
7	6	4	8	1	3	5	2	9
5	3	8	4	2	9	7	6	1
4	1	2	6	5	7	9	8	3
6	5	3	2	9	8	4	1	7
8	7	9	1	3	4	2	5	6
3	2	6	7	4	5	1	9	8
1	8	7	9	6	2	3	4	5
9	4	5	3	8	1	6	7	2

Vibez Manager Named The UK's Best!

Tracey Whitmore of Vibez Adult Boutique in Aylesford was named the UK's Best Store Manager in a prestigious awards ceremony on the evening of Sunday June 12th. The awards are presented annually by Erotic Trade Only (ETO), a business-to-business publication for retailers of lingerie, sexual wellbeing and intimate products.

Vibez Adult Boutique opened its doors in 2005 and has earned itself a reputation for being one of the UK's most innovative retailers. When the Fifty Shades of Grey movie was released in 2015, the store recreated Christian Grey's infamous 'Red Room' for customers to sample some of the products used in the film and also produced a cinema advert for the local Odeon cinemas promoting the products used and Vibez store and website. The store is aimed at couples and women and provides a relaxed and classy environment for customers to shop.

The ETO Awards were staged at the Vox Conference Suite in Resorts World Birmingham, and almost 300 guests attended the event. The awards recognise excellence in every link of the supply chain, including products, brands, distributors, retailers, and people. The awards are highly coveted within the industry because the winners are decided by the votes of readers of ETO magazine, and there are never more than 33 awards in total handed out each year. They are presented on the evening of the two-day annual ETO Show, a business-to-business expo which takes place at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) every summer.

In addition to Tracey returning home with her Best Store Manager award, Vibez was also nominated in the Best Individual Store category. Tracey said: "I am absolutely delighted that we were once again nominated for best Individual Store and receiving the award for best Store Manager has been the best recognition ever and well worth all the hard work. I would like to thank all my peers and wonderful friends in this fantastic industry"

Dale Bradford, editor of ETO magazine, added: "I am absolutely delighted that Tracey was named Best Store Manager by our readers. She is so determined, enthusiastic, and committed to her business, which continues to be one of the very best independent retailers in the UK. The cheers and applause in the room when she accepted the award confirmed she was also a very popular winner."

feedback

your say...

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Migrants are an essential factor

WHAT a mess! I am not sure Nigel Farage or many politicians have any clue about how the EU functions.

Winding people up about immigration and the funding of the NHS was a crass way to inform people of what Brexit will really entail. It will cost us dear.

The daily press has to take responsibility too. Sensational and stark headlines, poorly researched, poor journalism.

The xenophobia has already started. What do many immigrants do? They provide skills the UK lacks, or take on work many in the UK feel is beneath them.

If we send back all the immigrant NHS consultants and nurses, the NHS will cease to exist.

If we send back or refuse to admit all the science graduates (well) qualified in subjects no longer taught by our universities and colleges, Stephen Hawking's nightmare for the future of science in this country will be a stark reminder of our foolishness. If we send back the seasonal workers, many crops will remain unplanted and unharvested.

The UK is not self-sufficient in food production. We should soon starve if we did not buy imported food. It does not make sense therefore to threaten the food we do produce by denying farmers an income of up to 50 per cent from EU farm subsidies. Will the government pick up the tab to stop farmers going out of business? I think not.

The most crucial effect will be the effect on the environment. The EU parliament has devised by agreement a fairly high standard of protection which underpins our very existence. The environment including wildlife does not stop at borders. Without proper consultations between neighbouring countries, the quality of life of our children and grandchildren is in grave danger.

Many people are at last grasping the error they have made voting 'out'. Our political system is in a mess. We should forget nationalism, we are a tiny island. The UK needs to be able to work as a whole to try and pick up the pieces to re-join the EU.

Jean Nobbs,
via email

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Who will you blame now we're out of EU?

HOW did you feel the day after the referendum? Elated at leaving or disappointed at what you see as a major regression?

One thing is certain, you cannot trust any politicians, no matter what your persuasion in, out or undecided you were lied to and ill informed by every side - especially the leave rabble.

They back track in such a manner you wonder if you wear dreaming; £350m going to EU? No about £130m. All would be spent on NHS or other departments vitally under funded? No such promise was given apparently.

Cut immigration with an Aussie-style points system? Wrong again now it appears immigration will remain as is but at least can be controlled by the UK in whatever way the government see fit. One moment, but did we not do this anyway?

The politicians have pulled off a blinder. So why not sack the politicians which have lied to you all? We have not taken back our country for our kids and what does that even mean? Was I off the day we were invaded?

It will take this generation, the next and perhaps the following to repair this damage.

Ukip are anarchists and have ripped us from Europe and begun to tear the UK apart with Scotland and Northern Ireland wanting out from the UK. We can survive however we will have to work hard to do so with leaders which do not exist in out political system. Do you trust them in negotiations of the divorce? I do not.

It was not the EU which created the mass migration of people it was wars we got involved. The EU did not cause the recession of 2008, the pot holes in our roads, the cuts to local services; it was all UK government not the EU. Who will you blame now?

Steve Alexandrou
Ramsgate

Let's get this divorce over with

THE elite, the establishment and the experts have let the people of Britain down yet again.

We have voted to leave with two very clear mandates – our PM Cameron promised to evoke article 50 as soon as the result was known and get the divorce underway – he has now advanced noticed his resignation delaying matters for his convenience and Conservative Party politics.

Second mandate was to stop paying the £350m a week membership fee – using this sum on needed expenditure on our services at home – again delayed because of Cameron and the Conservatives.

At this point in time Europe is more afraid of other countries Brexiting and is willing to compromise and encourage a 'quickie divorce'. The timing and attention of our 'spouse' the EU, may never be more advantageous.

Edward La Coste,
Lamberhurst

Granger's back and he's happy

THE Remain campaign try to pretend the Brexiteers only won because of 'scare tactics'...excuse me!

I remember the PM and his Eton Mess talking of a massive drop in house prices, big loses on pensions, even World War 3, if we dared to ignore they who knew better?

How interesting it will be to see now what will really happen, without the doom mongers; those solely with self interest and false prophets putting in their misery.

Already the remainers are backtracking and those like Carney and Osborne, who forecast doom, helped the drop in shares and the pound, as they sold this country out and told everybody we weren't good enough.

Well, we are good enough and we don't need 27 other countries telling us what to do, or spending our money for us, while they turn the rest of Europe into a basket case.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

Refreshing true democracy

THE referendum was the first time, in my lifetime, that I witnessed true, genuine democracy.

The political parties allowed their MPs to vote personally and not party politically. What a breath of fresh air. Each MP did not have to ask their leader or the whip of their party 'how do you want me to vote?'.

Regrettably, we will return now to a 'fake democracy' where MPs have to toe the party line or else. Oh well, it was nice whilst it lasted.

Betty Renz,
Cliftonville

Export trade will benefit now

I WOULD like to thank all those in Kent who voted to leave the EU.

This decision will remove the necessity to observe the EU law (article 35) which has been a barrier to ending live exports for slaughter via Ramsgate and Dover.

Supported by Craig Mackinlay and the farming minister, George Eustice, we can now work towards legislative change which will make this despicable trade a thing of the past.

Reg Bell,
Thanet Against Live Exports

The letter which is smaller than the headline...

WE have our country back!

S Reeves,
Herne Bay

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Greatstone Gardens

by **Brian Summers from Faversham**

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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOVING MACHINE: the Logan mega-estate

AWARD WINNER: the cut-price Sandero supermini

SERIOUS OFF-ROAD ABILITY: the latest Duster SUV

Dacia delivers second time around

BRAND UPDATE: Once derided Romanian brand has been revitalised by Renault to become a budget star and a source of national pride...

WHO would have thought it? Romanian car brand Dacia has now sold four million cars worldwide since relaunching in 2004 as a Renault subsidiary.

It's a far cry from the original homegrown company's efforts, which became notorious here during the 1980s for its poor quality, eventually quitting our market.

With a long history of building Renault-derived products though it was no surprise when the French marque bought its erstwhile partner, and then introduced modern production processes.

Dacia – the traditional name for the region now known as Romania – has since re-emerged as Renault's budget line.

So successful has it become that its predicted UK return kept being shelved due to demand from existing markets.

Finally, it arrived in April 2013 with the Duster SUV (from £9,495) and bargain-price Sandero supermini (from £5,995), since joined by the pumped up SUV-style Sandero Stepway and versatile Logan mega-estate.

The Duster sells in economical front-wheel drive or full 4x4 (from £11,495) the latter becoming the current market's cheapest and best way into decent off-road ability.

The re-launched Dacia quickly overtook longer-established brands and landed numerous awards, including What Car?'s 'Best Small Car under £12,000' (Sandero) for four consecutive years.

PUMPED UP: the Sandero's SUV-style Stepway spin-off

Influential customer satisfaction survey Auto Express Driver Power also placed Dacia in its top five best manufacturers' table for three consecutive years, with brand reliability gaining particular praise – laying the ghost of Dacia's previous life here.

The brand celebrates its success with annual picnics to foster a growing owners' community in various markets: the next Dacia Day for owners here is on August 13 at Bruntingthorpe – see Dacia UK Facebook page.

Dacia was founded in 1966, becoming a Renault subsidiary in 1999. It is now Romania's top company by revenue and exports and its motor plant in Mioveni, is currently Europe's fifth biggest car plant by volume.

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in... KENT LIFE

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New style Rio has the Latino swagger

Kia's supermini has gained style, yet still looks good value while backed by the market's best warranty – seven years/100,000 miles writes Steve Loader...

THERE wasn't much Latino swagger about the Kia Rio before, despite the name.

Never one to ignore the realities of a tough industry though, the Korean brand has steadily improved the car, so that the latest generation supermini (from £10,095) has far more style and substance.

Even better, and as with all latter day Kias, it no longer has to rely on value for money and the marque's as yet unchallenged seven year/100,000-mile warranty; you can buy it simply because you like the low-slung coupé lines and a raciness that's rare in superminis.

The Rio's stance doesn't flatter to deceive either; build and cabin quality is up there with European rivals in most cases. Only out on the road does the Rio fall behind the dynamic sophistication of sector leaders like the Ford Fiesta and Vauxhall Corsa.

There's nothing wrong with the balance of ride and handling manners – the cornering style is nice and flat with plenty of grip – but the Rio steering doesn't feel as taut as the chassis deserves.

If already drawn by its style, price and warranty though, choosing between a three or five-door model, and the right engine, might be the only issues left on your mind.

We've previously tested the 1.1-litre diesel (from £11,995) and been impressed by its staggering frugality (88.3mpg on official combined cycle) and exemption from road tax due to CO2 emissions below 99g/km.

However, a three-cylinder format for a diesel was always going to challenge refinement, even though the little 74bhp unit settles well for steady cruising, helped by a leggy six-speed gearbox.

It's never zesty, though, so buyers must choose this version's out and out economy or look for more welly.

There are petrol options, of course, including the 84bhp 1.25-litre entry unit, which will save you £1,000 upfront and out-accelerate the 1.1 diesel – it's the bargain choice.

But the 89bhp 1.4-litre diesel is the best all-rounder, even if prices start at £15,545. It offers 74.3mpg (combined) still nothing to pay on road tax, and the four-cylinder arrangement is far smoother.

Economy and emissions are helped by Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) system for best economy during city driving or motorway hold-ups – part of the fuel/emissions-saving 'Ecodynamics' system on all Rio diesels.

The Rio cabin feels big: the wheelbase was stretched by 70mm versus the previous car and the long raked windscreen enhances spaciousness. Adults get great legroom front and back, though the boot is only average for the class.

As ever with Kia, specifications are generous, so the test car's level '3' spec includes auto air-con, alloys, electric folding/heated/adjusting door-mirrors, electric windows, leather-trimmed wheel and gear-knob, electric windows all round, Bluetooth/USB/aux connectivity and heated front seats.

Kia Rio 1.4 CRDI 3 ISG EcoDynamics

Price:	from £15,545
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Kia Sportage Range: Urban 28.2 (10.0) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 37.2 (7.6) – 61.4 (4.6), CO_2 emissions 177 – 119g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Available between 01/04/16 and 30/06/16 inclusive. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Kia Finance RH1 1SR. Model shown: All-New Kia Sportage 'GT-Line' 1.6 T-GDi 174bhp 6-speed manual (AWD) at £24,355 OTR. Offer not available with any other offer. Offers not available in The Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only (excluding Personal Contract Hire). Details correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.
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60334

Another one drives a Duster

New Dacia Duster from £9,495 to £16,495**

Room for 5 adults
Dacia Sandero
= from £5,995*

Car shown: Dacia Sandero
Ambiance 1.2 16v 75 = £6,795

SUV style, supermini costs
Dacia Sandero Stepway
= from £8,495*

Car shown: Dacia Sandero Stepway
Lauréate TCe 90 = £10,095

A modern and functional estate
Dacia Logan MCV
= from £6,995*

Car shown: Dacia Logan MCV
Lauréate TCe 90 = £9,795

You do the maths

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 38 (7.4)-49.6 (5.7); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9)-61.4 (4.6); combined 48.7 (5.8)-56.5 (5). The official CO_2 emissions are 130g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

**Car shown is a Dacia Duster Lauréate dCi 110 4x2 at £13,595 plus optional metallic paint at an extra £495. *Prices shown are manufacturer's recommended retail prices, available on featured new vehicles ordered by 30 September 2016 and registered by 31 December 2016. Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Cars shown with optional metallic paint at an extra £495.

main dealer servicing

What does FMDSH mean?

By Steve Loader

CONSIDERING it's usually our next biggest purchase after the roof over our heads, we can have a cavalier attitude to car care

Many owners neglect servicing and having repairs done swiftly and competently.

And they sometimes don't worry too much now about using a main dealer for maintenance, after 2002 EU legislation stopped manufacturers insisting this was part of the car warranty.

Nevertheless, a full main dealer service history (FMDSH) remains as a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

That's a double benefit for the current owner: he/she feels it should optimise reliability and make the car easier to part exchange or sell privately later on.

But sceptics argue that this perceived premium is wiped out by higher main dealer service bills. Maybe, but manufacturers and their dealer networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation.

THE MAIN DEALER TECHNICIAN: best for your new Nissan Qashqai or Hyundai i20 Coupe?

Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed, dealers have become more competitive on servicing, created cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service, and specialised in ancillaries like tyres and exhausts – normally the preserve of the quick-fits.

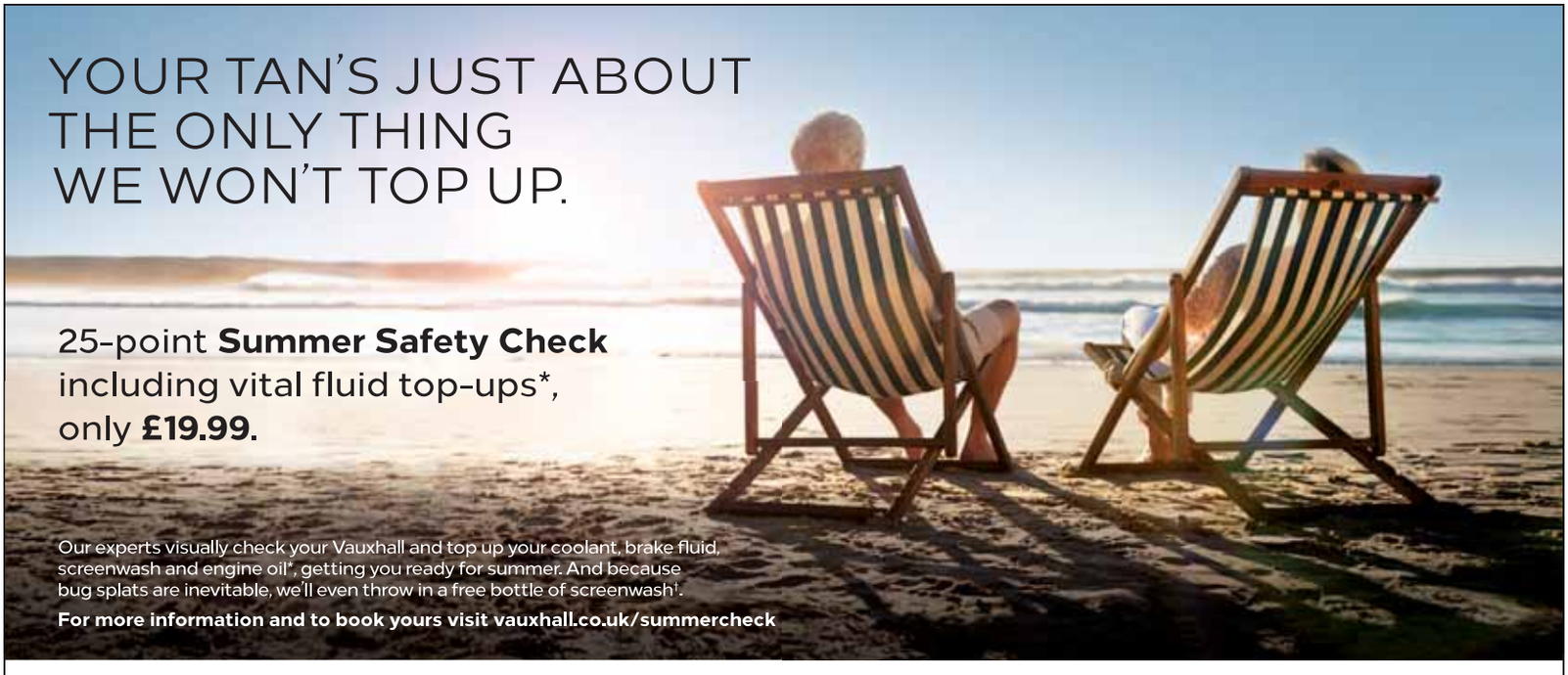
They have also banked on the perception that only main dealer's service technicians can know a brand's cars as well they do, and will always use authentic parts.

Another borrowed quick-fit trick is longer working hours: many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally too, so that customers living between franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

Loyalty schemes offering cheaper prices to owners of older and lower-value models have also thrived, persuading them against defection to the non-franchised sector because they feel their car is no longer worth top servicing prices.

And the franchises know that happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new models in the car showroom –they may soon buy again.



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VAUXHALL

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Warranty wars

NEW cars are covered by a warranty.

For years, the standard was three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between the carmakers has seen both years and mileages increase – five and seven years and 100,000 and unlimited miles are now offered by some.

That's a good enough reason for car buyers to shop around anyway, but some of the new deals also reinforce the old adage "check the small print".

This should confirm exactly what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

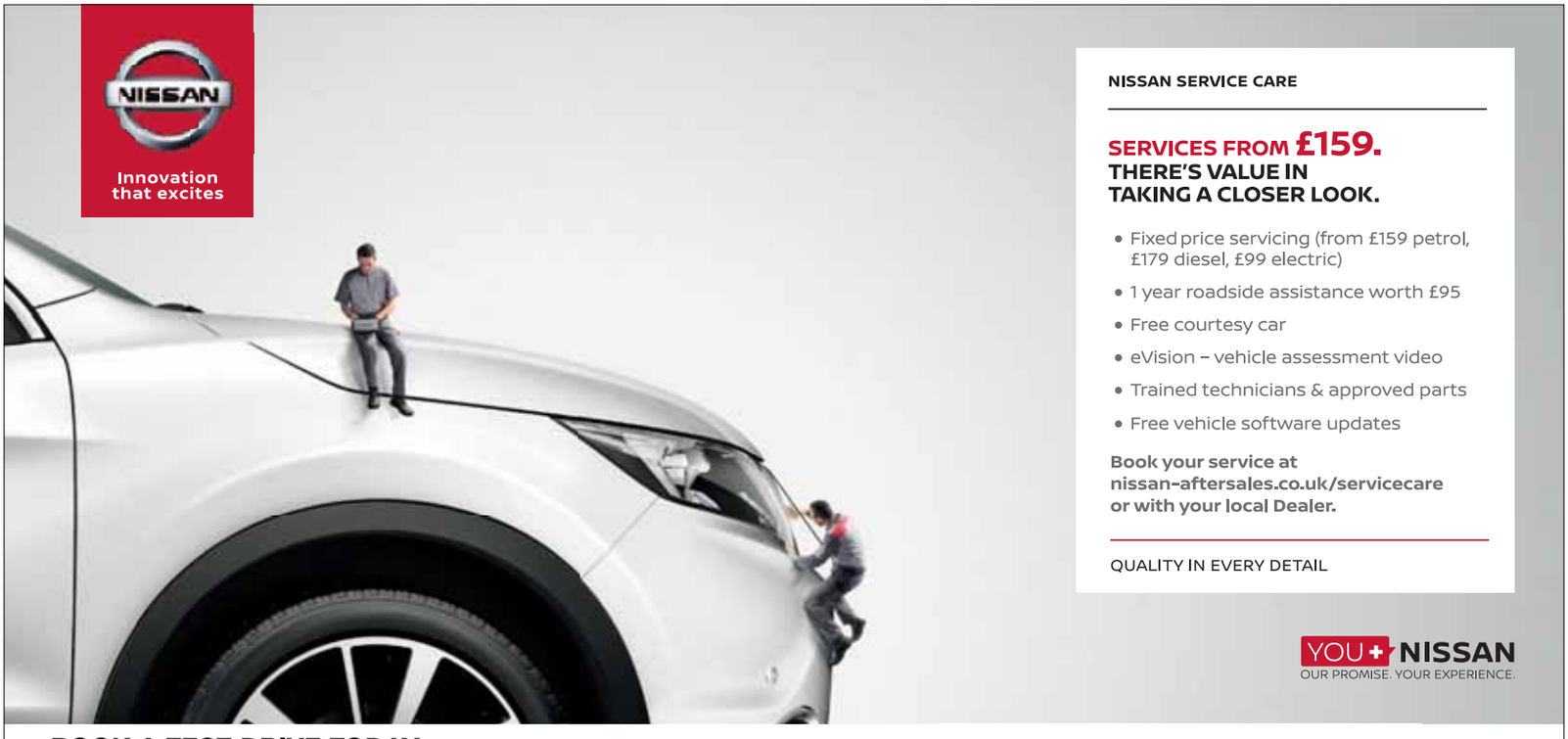
And this makes it imperative that car owners also stick to the rules by keeping the car serviced according to the warranty, and acting upon any recall notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some brands are more lenient about late servicing than others or will remind you in good time of an impending service, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage, when most manufacturers also insist that the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered.

Fact is, an underused car or one that does lots of short hops, can need as much attention as one that covers 'starship miles' on the motorway.

You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 - but do check for caveats in any case and be aware that buyers of used cars or dealers taking a part exchange will always pay more for a car with a FMDSH (full main dealer service history).

LOOK AFTER IT – GET IT SERVICED ON TIME: whether it be a new Hyundai Tucson SUV, Vauxhall Corsa supermini, or Alfa Romeo Giulietta sporting hatch



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Section 17 Licensing Act 2003
Licensing Act 2003: Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that ***Indie Coffee and Eats Ltd*** has applied to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on ***21st June 2016*** for a new premises licence for ***The Swan Street Café, 19/21, Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JU.***

The proposed application is to permit ***the sale by retail of alcohol.***

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by ***19th July 2016 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)*** stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Services, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ, Licensing.service@tmbc.gov.uk

Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 876368.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling Kent ME19 5QP.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003
Application for a New Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Mr Yanxing Yu
Premises: 5 Market Street Faversham Kent ME13 7AH
Proposed Licensable activities:
Afternoon Tea room. Sale of alcohol
Monday – Sunday 10am – 22 :00
Date to make representations by: 21st July 2016

The licensing applications can be inspected by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

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Kent catch breath amid T20 fixtures

County look to cement place at top of table in championship

Cricket

By Mark Pennell
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT return to County Championship action this weekend, as they face a switch from the fast-paced short version of the game after a flurry of T20 matches.

Currently sitting at the top of the Division Two table – and with just one club winning promotion this season – it is hard not to have some sympathy with the team should their focus this season be on finally digging their way back into the domestic game's top flight.

But the break doesn't last long – after the four-day game against Essex at Chelmsford concludes, they then face a re-run of Friday night's clash with Somerset.

That match, which concluded after KoS went to press, came hot on the heels of a convincing win over rivals Sussex Sharks in Canterbury on Thursday.

South African pace bowler Kagiso Rabada proved an instant hit with Kent supporters by claiming two wickets on his debut to help steer the Spitfires to a tense 10-run win.

On a two-paced pitch that made boundary hitting tricky for both sides, Spitfires successfully defended 166 for six with Rabada claiming two for 31 and Fabian Cowdrey two for eight to seal their sides third south group win. Sussex falling short of the total by 10 runs after their 20 overs.

After collecting his man-of-the-match award 21-year-old Rabada said: "It was a great start for my debut and I'm just happy that I could contribute and that the team has won. It's a good start for me and hopefully we can get some momentum from this.

"It was quite a good wicket but most of the guys felt we fell a bit short runs wise, so credit to all the bowlers because we made it tough for them to score and got wickets at crucial times."

Visiting skipper Luke Wright said: "I was delighted, after the start Kent had, to restrict them to that total. I'd have taken that total any day, so it's disappointing now and feels like we let that one slip away. But credit to their bowlers, I felt they executed their plans really well."

Somerset v Kent in the T20 is on Thursday in Taunton.

TARGET: Kent coach Jimmy Adams will be hoping his side carry form from Sussex win to bolster championship ambitions Pictures: ADY KERRY

Shakey eyes Snetterton success for title push

Motorsport

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne knows he needs to be on top form next weekend if he wants to close the gap between him and leader Leon Haslam in the race for the British Superbike Championship title.

The Sittingbourne racer shared the spoils with his title rival during last weekend's race at Knockhill after a thrilling pair of races saw them both claim a win each.

During the first race, Byrne crashed out on the fourth lap, leaving the way clear for Haslam to take the chequered flag.

But he bounced back in the second to claim a vital win.

Next stop is Snetterton next weekend.

MIXED: A crash and a win leaves Shakey 13 points behind Haslam

Byrne said: "The first race was disappointing and to have two crashes in a weekend isn't like me so I was keen to make amends in the second race. Just before the start of race two, my mechanic reminded me it was a 30-lap race and there was plenty of time and opportunities to get to the front but it actually happened quite quickly.

"Leon was brave into the first corner but he started to have a few moments so that was when I upped my game. I felt really strong and with five laps to go, I got my head down and really pushed hard. I badly wanted to win the second race so to come back from the first race crash and turn things round in the way that I did is great. Knockhill's been a good circuit to me over the years so a big thanks to the fans for staying out in the weather and also to the whole PBM Be Wiser Ducati team who again did a terrific job."

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

Wright given extended Gillingham contract

GILLINGHAM midfielder Josh Wright has signed a two-year contract extension at Priestfield.

The 26-year-old rejoined the Gills last August after a loan spell in 2009, and made 44 appearances in all competitions last season – on occasion wearing the captain's armband.

"I'm delighted to sign with the club, there was only one place I wanted to be playing football next season, and that is Gillingham," Wright said.

"I love it at the club, the manager has been fantastic, the chairman has been spot on with the contract process and I have a special bond with the fans, who have given me great support during my time here.

"I'm really looking forward to the next two years at the club."

Wright is the latest of a number of players to extend their stay with the Gills, following Stuart Nelson, Tom Hadler, Mitch Dickenson, Aaron Morris, Emmanuel Osadebe, Darren Oldaker, Greg Cundle and Elliott List.

DEAL: Josh Wright

HOME: Hartsdown Park

Margate sign winger quicker than Ronaldo

MARGATE have announced the signing of former West Ham winger Matthias Fanimo statistically quicker than Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 22-year-old made one first team appearance for the Hammers in a 2-0 victory over Crewe Alexandra before moving to Tranmere Rovers, where he also only made one appearance.

The wide man then moved to Bishops Stortford before spending last season at Eastleigh but once again found game time hard to come by and was released at the end of the season.

While at the West Ham Academy, Fanimo equalled Antonio Valencia as the fastest footballer in the world, 0.2 seconds quicker than Bale and 0.5 seconds quicker than Ronaldo.

Sprinters both secure Rio spots

DINA Asher-Smith and Adam Gemili's dream of Olympic glory remains firmly on track after they both secured their places at the Rio Games.

The two runners did what was necessary to book their place on the plane during last weekend's British Championships.

Orpington runner Asher-Smith won the 200m on the final and was delighted at ensuring her place in Brazil.

"I'm absolutely delighted. It really is a dream come true," she explained. "I cannot wait to get there."

Gemili also won his place in the men's 200m. It marks a return after a season dogged with injury.

The Dartford sprinter said: "This is fantastic. I want to win a medal and I know I cam capable of doing so."

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